



**NORTHERN NSW**  
**FOOTBALL**

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**NORTHERN INLAND**

**2026**

**Northern NSW Football**

**Northern Inland**

**Competition Regulations**



**NORTHERN**  
**NSW**

**FOOTBALL**

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**NORTHERN INLAND**



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

1.	SCOPE & DEFINITIONS .....	4
2.	PREMIERSHIP .....	9
3.	HOME / HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES .....	10
4.	MATCH BALLS.....	11
5.	NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS PROCESS.....	11
6.	POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME VENUE .....	11
7.	REGISTRATION OF PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL .....	11
8.	NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED.....	14
9.	DUTY OFFICERS.....	14
10.	BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS .....	15
11.	PLAYING AREA AND TECHNICAL AREA REQUIREMENTS .....	15
12.	ADMISSION CHARGES .....	16
13.	PLAYER UNIFORM / EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.....	16
14.	EXPENSES .....	18
15.	OFFICIAL FIXTURES DRAW .....	18
16.	KICK-OFF TIMES .....	18
17.	LIGHTING.....	19
18.	CHANGE OF VENUE / FIXTURE REQUEST BY CLUB.....	19
19.	FORFEITED FIXTURES.....	20
20.	START TIMES.....	21
21.	MINIMUM NUMER OF PLAYERS .....	21
22.	APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITION FIXTURES.....	21
23.	WEATHER AFFECTED FIXTURES / DOUBTFUL FIXTURES.....	22
24.	ABANDONED FIXTURES .....	22
25.	FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED .....	24
26.	TEAMS WITHDRAWN / REMOVED FROM COMPETITIONS .....	24
27.	TEAM SHEETS.....	25
28.	MATCH Detail DISPUTES.....	26
29.	Substitution/INTERCHANGE .....	26
30.	MATCH OFFICIALS .....	27
31.	MATCH OFFICIAL FEES .....	28
32.	PLAYING NAME & CLUB LOGO .....	28
33.	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES .....	28



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

34.	FINANCIAL STATUS.....	34
35.	EMBLEMS AND SLOGANS .....	34
36.	SALE OF ALCOHOL .....	35
37.	GROUND SIGNAGE AND SPONSOR BRANDING .....	35
38.	MATCH OFFICAL COMPLAINTS.....	36
	APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS .....	37
	APPENDIX B – APPEAL FEES .....	39
	APPENDIX C – PLAYING STRIP BRANDING .....	40
	APPENDIX E - DISCIPLINARY CODES .....	41
	APPENDIX F – MATCH OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE .....	43
	APPENDIX G – ZONE REGULATORY AMENDMENT SCHEDULE- DISCIPLINARY, INTEGRITY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATION .....	44



### 1. SCOPE & DEFINITIONS

**1.1.** Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations apply to the following competitions and/or fixtures conducted by NNSWF NI:

- (a)** Northern Inland Premier Divisions (Northern & Southern)
- (b)** Armidale Senior Football.
- (c)** Armidale Youth Football.
- (d)** Namoi League.
- (e)** Tamworth Senior Football.
- (f)** Tamworth Youth Football.
- (g)** Other competitions, tournaments and special events as promulgated by NNSWF Northern Inland from time to time.

**1.2.** These Regulations apply to all Clubs, Players, Teams, Club Officials, Volunteers & Match Officials participating in NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions.

**1.3.** These Regulations are supplementary to Football Australia (FA) Statutes and Regulations including:

- (a)** Football Australia National Registration Regulations.
- (b)** Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (c)** Football Australia National Code of Conduct.
- (d)** Football Australia National Grievance Procedure By-Law.
- (e)** Football Australia National Member Protection Policy.
- (f)** Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour; and
- (g)** Any other regulations or policies adopted by FA from time to time.

**1.4.** Football Australia Statutes apply to NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions.

**1.5.** In case of any conflict between these Regulations and the FA Statutes, Regulations, or Policies, the relevant provisions of the FA documents shall take precedence to the extent of the inconsistency.

**1.6.** The subsequent Competition Rules address additional Regulations, conditions and requirements for specific competitions as outlined in Regulation 1.1:

**1.7.** All Competition Fixtures will be conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

**1.8.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deal with any persons or Clubs in respect of any offences or complaints and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations.



**1.9.** All Competition Fixtures shall be conducted in accordance with the NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Regulations, relevant Competition Rules and FA Regulations and Statutes.

**1.10.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to amend Competition Regulations and Competition Rules at any time in its absolute discretion.

**1.11.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to amend Competition Regulations and Competitions Rules at any time in its absolute discretion.

**1.12.** The following definitions shall apply across these Regulations and Competitions Rules unless otherwise stated:

**(a)** Active means in relation to a Player or Team Officials registration status within the FA National Registration System, that the player or Team Official has paid the required registration fees to the club.

**(b)** Automatic / Auto means with respect to disciplinary sanctions the automatic 1 match mandatory suspension applied as a minimum;

**(c)** Away Team means the second listed Team on the Official Fixtures Draw;

**(d)** Club has the same meaning as in the NNSWF Constitution;

**(e)** Club Associate means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:

**(i)** Club Director(s), Committee Member(s) and Office Bearer(s);

**(ii)** Team Official(s) (including but not limited to a coach, Team manager or anyone who is officially associated with or on behalf of a Club).

**(iii)** Player(s) of a Club;

**(iv)** Member(s) of a Club as defined in the Club's Constitution;

**(v)** Supporter(s) of a Club;

**(vi)** Spectators at a Competition Fixture, who unless otherwise identified with a Club shall be deemed to be supporters of the Home Club;

**(vii)** Any person(s) involved with and/or who contributes to the game of Football in any capacity.

**(h)** Competition Fixture means any individual Match scheduled by NNSWF Northern Inland for points, or during Finals Series;

**(i)** Competition Management System means the online system for all fixtures and results currently contained within the SportsTG network;

**(j)** Doctors Medical Certificate means a written statement from a physician which attests to the result of a medical examination of a patient;



- (k)** Duty Officer(s) means persons engaged by a Club to fulfil the role as outlined in Regulation 10;
- (l)** FA means the National governing body, Football Australia Limited;
- (m)** FFA Cup means the national male club competition stage by, or under the control, FA between A-League Clubs and Member Federation Clubs;
- (n)** FA National Code of Conduct means the national code of conduct, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (o)** FA National Disciplinary Regulations means the national disciplinary regulations, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (p)** FA National Registration Regulations means the national regulations specifying the rules relating to the registration of Players, Clubs, Officials and Competitions with FA, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (q)** FA National Registration System means the online PlayFootball system used for Player registrations;
- (r)** FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour means FA's National Spectator Code of Behaviour which governs the behaviour of spectators present at a Match or otherwise involved in any activity staged by NNSWF or Club in order to enhance the reputation of FA and football generally;
- (s)** FIFA Equipment Regulations means the FIFA Equipment Regulations as promulgated by FIFA from time to time;
- (t)** FIFA Laws of the Game means the official 2019/20 Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA;
- (u)** Field of Play means:
- (i)** At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
  - (ii)** At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- (v)** Finals Series means the series of Competition Fixtures contested with qualifying Teams as stipulated in the Competition Rules;
- (w)** Force Majeure Event means any event beyond the reasonable control of the party affected by it, including any acts of God, fire, explosion, flood, war, acts of terrorism, theft, malicious damage, strikes, lock outs, industrial action of any kind, government regulations or requirement or restraint or intervention;
- (x)** Goalkeeper means the player designated by a Club as that Club's goalkeeper in a Match;



**(y)** Home Team means the Team whose name appears first in the Official Fixtures Draw;

**(z)** Host Club means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at their nominated Venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not;

**(aa)** Just Cause means a legally sufficient reason;

**(bb)** Match(es) means a matchday for the relevant group of Teams. E.g. Premier Division First Grade and Reserve Grade;

**(cc)** Match Official includes the following:

**(i)** NNSWF appointed Senior Match Official (also known as the Referee);

**(ii)** Assistant Match Official (also known as Assistant Referee);

**(iii)** Fourth Official;

**(iv)** Match Assessor;

**(v)** Any other person designated by NNSWF as a Match Official; or

**(vi)** Any individual who acts as a Match Official in any Match.

**(dd)** Mass Walk Off means where a Team or group of individuals remove themselves from a Match resulting in the Match being abandoned as per Regulation 25.2a;

**(ee)** Match Card means the official Match record with details pertaining to Players and/or Team Officials who participated in the Match as well as the result, goal scorers and any disciplinary actions;

**(ff)** Normal Time means the maximum length of 2 equal periods not including added time as specified in Competition Rules;

**(gg)** NNSWF means the Member Federation governing body, Northern New South Wales Football;

**(hh)** NNSWF Technical Director means the individual employed by NNSWF in this position;

**(ii)** Official Fixtures Draw means the competition draw for Northern NSW Football's Northern Inland competitions published on the Competition Management System;

**(jj)** Official Points Table means the recording of data including points, goal differences and matches played for each Competition where points are recorded housed within the Competition Management System;

**(kk)** Outfield Player(s) means the player(s) other than the designated Goalkeeper who participate on the field of play in a Match;



- (ll)** Player means any person who is registered with a Club to participate in the NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions;
- (mm)** Premiership means the Matches conducted within a Competition forming the home and away season excluding the Finals Series if applicable;
- (nn)** Red Card means a Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card, as the case may be;
- (oo)** Regulations means these NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Regulations promulgated by NNSWF Northern Inland from time to time;
- (pp)** Regular Season means the Premiership home and away fixtured competition;
- (qq)** Representative Team means a Team representing a State or Territory, a region or an Institute that participates in a Competition;
- (rr)** Senior Match Official means the most senior appointed Match Official for a Competition Fixture, usually the Referee;
- (ss)** Sporting Advantage means anything that provides a more favourable position, greater opportunity or a favourable outcome;
- (tt)** Talent Support Program means players who are selected to participate in the Talent Support Program administered by NNSWF technical staff;
- (uu)** Team means Players and/or Team Officials representative a Club in a specific competition age group and/or grade;
- (vv)** Team Official means any person employed or volunteering their services, including but not limited to, a Coach, team manager or physio / sports trainer;
- (ww)** Technical Area means the area marked and designated in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a Match;
- (xx)** Trial Game means any fixture sanctioned by NNSWF Northern Inland, but not as a Competition Fixture;
- (yy)** Venue means the venue at which Competition Fixtures are staged;
- (zz)** Withdrawn Club has the meaning prescribed in Regulation 27;
- (aaa)** Yellow Card means a Player Yellow Card or Team Official Yellow Card, as the case may be;

### 1.13. Interpretation

- (a)** In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms shall have the meaning set out in clause 1.12 (Definitions)
- (b)** Unless otherwise defined in these Regulations, capitalised terms in these Regulations have the same meaning as defined in:



- (i) The FA Statutes.
  - (ii) The FIFA Laws of the Game.
  - (iii) The National Registration Regulations.
  - (iv) The National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (c) In the event of inconsistency between these Regulations and any other FA Statutes, the interpretation will prevail in the following order:

- (i) The FIFA Statutes.
  - (ii) The National Registration Regulations.
  - (iii) These Regulations.
  - (iv) The National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (d) In these Regulations:
- (i) Any use of the words ‘includes’ or words such as ‘for example’ or ‘such as’ do not limit anything else that is included in general speech.
  - (ii) ‘Business Day’ means a day when the offices of FA are ordinarily open for business.
  - (iii) Any reference to ‘\$’ or ‘dollars’ is to Australian dollar.
  - (iv) A reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa.
  - (v) A reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations; and
  - (vi) A reference to a clause, annexure or schedule is to a clause, annexure or schedule to these Regulations, unless otherwise specified.

## 2. PREMIERSHIP

2.1. Premiership competitions may vary across divisions regarding the number of fixtures played, opponents and finals series.

2.2. Premiership Points - Determination of Placing Premiers

(a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

Outcome	Value
Win	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit (awarded to)	3 points
Abandoned	As per Regulation 25



**2.3.** When all Premiership Competition Fixtures are concluded, and the competition points allocated the Team with the highest number of points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the Minor Premiers.

**(b)** Where Teams are equal on points at the conclusion of all Competition Fixtures, their placing is determined by the following process being applied in this sequence:

- (i)** Highest positive goal difference;
- (ii)** Highest number of goals scored;
- (iii)** Highest number of points accumulated in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned;
- (iv)** Highest goal difference in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned;
- (v)** Lowest number of Red Cards accumulated;
- (vi)** Lowest number of Yellow Cards accumulated; and
- (vii)** toss of a coin in the event of a tie of 2 Clubs or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of 3 or more Clubs.

### **3. HOME / HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1.** Home Clubs and Host Clubs are as defined in Regulation 1.11.

**3.2.** The Home Club and Host Club may be the same Club.

**3.3.** The responsibilities of the Host Club are as follows:

**(a)** Venue Availability

- (i)** Ensure its nominated home ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time as published in the Official Fixtures Draw;

**(b)** Playing Surface

- (i)** The Host Club must ensure the playing surface is in a condition the Match Official considers safe, ground markings are clear and accurate as specified within the FIFA Laws of the Game and that nets and corner posts are provided to conform to the requirements of the competition.
- (ii)** The Senior Match Official shall decide on all matters relating to the Regulation 3.3 shall report any breaches in writing to NNSWF Northern Inland.
- (iii)** Should the Senior Match Official refuse to commence a Competition Fixture due to non-compliance with Regulation 3.3 (except in the event of a wash out), the Host Club shall be responsible for payment of the Match Official's fees and the Club may be fined a sum as outlined in Section 1 of Appendix A,



and the result of the Competition Fixture will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

#### 4. MATCH BALLS

##### 4.1. Match Ball Sizes

Age Group	Match Ball Size
5-9 Years	Size 3
10-13 Years	Size 4
14+ Years	Size 5

#### 5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS PROCESS

**5.1.** It is the responsibility of the Match Official to upload all Match results into the NI – NNSWF Competition Management System at the conclusion of each Match

**5.2.** In the event there is no match official present, the Home Club is required to

- (a) Use a NI-NNSWF standard paper team sheet
- (b) Notify NNSWF of the result via email to [jkellaway@northernnswfootball.com.au](mailto:jkellaway@northernnswfootball.com.au) by not later than 9am the following day.

#### 6. POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME VENUE

**6.1.** Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules, NNSWF Northern Inland may direct a Club to play its Home Competition Fixture(s) at a Venue other than its Home Venue, providing that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s) or if there is an urgent requirement to complete the fixtures in question, taking into account the impact of the change – i.e. distance from home ground and same / similar kick off time.

#### 7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL

##### 7.1. Registration Periods

- (a) The amateur registration period for all NNSWF Northern Inland competitions is 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

##### 7.2. Registration Fees

- (a) A player registration fee will be imposed by NNSWF Northern Inland for participation in all NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions which shall be determined annually.
- (b) The NNSWF Northern Inland player registration component fee is refundable to the Club up until 30<sup>th</sup> June each year provided that the de-registering player has not:
  - (i) Played in a competition fixture during their time of registration;
  - (ii) Lodged an insurance claim during their time of registration;



- (iii) Been listed on a Team Sheet for any Competition Fixture as either a starting Player or a Substitute/Interchange Player.

### 7.3. Player Registration Process

- (a) For all NNSWF competitions, Players are required to register online via the Football Australia National Registration System.
- (b) A Player is not considered registered to a Club until such time as the Club makes them Active.
- (c) A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Players have been registered and made Active 60 minutes prior to the Match the Player is participating in.
- (d) The final date for any Player registration with NNSWF Northern Inland is 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. Any registration submitted after this date will only be accepted in the terms outlined in Regulation 7.4.
- (e) This Regulation is subject to Football Australia National Registration Regulations.

### 7.4. NNSWF may register a Player outside the Registration Period if:

- (a) That Professional Player was not bound by a playing contract before the expiry of the immediately preceding Registration Period.
- (b) That Player is a Goalkeeper and NNSWF has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence.
- (c) Football Australia or the Member Federation is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated their Professional Player Contract for Just Cause.

### 7.5. Player Eligibility

- (a) An eligible amateur Player is one who has registered in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions Regulation 7.3.
- (b) A Club may seek special dispensation regarding a Player's eligibility by applying in writing to NNSWF.
- (c) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that all players who require an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) are registered accordingly.
- (d) Any player playing in NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions without the required ITC will be deemed an ineligible player and may be sanctioned in accordance with regulation 7.6.

### 7.6. Teams Playing Ineligible Players



**(a)** A Team found guilty of playing an ineligible Player in any Competition Fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with that Match and shall be fined a sum outlined in section 2 of Appendix A:

**(i)** In such cases, the Competition Fixture shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team unless the score of the Competition Fixture was greater, and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand.

**(ii)** In determining what is a greater result, NNSWF Northern Inland will give preference to goals for in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered greater than 3-0).

**(b)** If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any goals and / or player award votes accumulated by the non-offending Team will be upheld;

**(c)** If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any player award votes accumulated by the offending Team will be removed for the fixture;

**(d)** If a Competition fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, and a score awarded in line with 7.3.a.ii, any goals for the offending Team will be upheld in the results and Official Points Table but will not be attributed to any individual Player.

**(e)** Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. Red / Yellow Cards for both Teams will be upheld.

**(f)** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right at all times to determine if there was any malice or intent to gain benefit by a Club playing a Player deemed to be ineligible. Where NNSWF Northern Inland determines there was no malice or intent to gain benefit in playing an ineligible Player it reserves the right to deem what action is appropriate, taking into account any Sporting Advantage gained by doing so.

**7.7.** A Club shall not allow a Player who is under suspension or disqualification from NNSWF Northern Inland or any other FIFA / FA affiliated football body to play in the competitions.

**(a)** Such Player will be declared an ineligible Player.

**(b)** Any Club playing a suspended or disqualified Player during his period of suspension or disqualification may be sanctioned in accordance with Section 2 of Appendix A.

**7.8.** Subject to any disciplinary restriction, a Player is eligible to compete in their Team's Final Series Matches subject to compliance with the Competition Rules.

**7.9.** Team Official Registration Process

**(a)** For all NNSWF Northern Inland competitions, Team Officials are required to register online with the Football Australia National Registration System.



**(b)** A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Team Officials have been registered and made Active a minimum of 60 minutes prior to commencing duties as a Team Official.

**(c)** The Team Official must be registered in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions Regulation.

**(d)** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to refuse registration of a Team Official who does not have the required minimum qualifications.

### **8. NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED**

**8.1.** A Club must register sufficient Players to fulfill the requirements of the Team(s) in the competitions(s) as per the Competition Rules, subject to timelines determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

### **9. DUTY OFFICERS**

**9.1.** At all Senior Matches, both Home and Away teams must have a minimum of one (1) identifiable Duty Officer present at all times.

**9.2.** Duty Officers are required to wear a Duty Officer vest or similar high viz vest for clear identification to spectators and officials.

**9.3.** Duty Officers are required to:

**(a)** Actively patrol the playing arena.

**(b)** If requested, escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena, with Match Official Support Officer.

**(c)** Be the point of contact with Spectators of the Duty Officers own Club.

**(d)** Be 18 years or older

**(e)** Not be undertaking any other team official or coaching role.

**9.4.** Match Official Support Officers are required to:

**(a)** Escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena at the start and conclusion of each half.

**(b)** Remain within playing arena between technical areas for the duration of the match, unless required to address spectator behaviour.

**(c)** Provide assistance to youth Match Officials, if required, when addressing staff in technical area.

**(d)** Wear designated Match Official Support Officer Vest.

**(e)** Be 18 years or older.



(f) Not be undertaking any other team official or coaching role.

**9.5.** Duty Officers are not to enter the Technical Area during a fixture.

**9.6.** Duty Officers and Match Official Support Officials are not permitted to consume alcohol whilst on duty.

### **10. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS**

**10.1.** Each Club shall be responsible and liable for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials and Supporters at all times in accordance with the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour.

### **11. PLAYING AREA AND TECHNICAL AREA REQUIREMENTS**

#### **11.1.** Field of Play

(a) During any Match, an Official or Player not involved in the Competition Fixture, or a supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than 3 metres to the playing field marked lines or where a permanent boundary fence exists, shall not be permitted to stand inside the boundary fence.

(b) It is the Club's responsibility to ensure spectators comply with 11.1(a), in conjunction with home and away team Duty Officers.

(c) Coaching from the boundary line/fence is strictly prohibited. Coaches must be in the marked technical areas.

#### **11.2.** Technical Area

(a) If there is no technical area marked with line markings, clubs must use cones, or something similar to identify the technical area.

(b) Each bench must be capable of seating a minimum of 8 person:

(i) A maximum of 3 Team Officials

(ii) A maximum of 5 substitute players.

(c) All persons must remain seated within the prescribed area during the fixture, with the exception of:

(i) Team Officials attending to an injured Player.

(ii) One (1) Team Official who may engage in active coaching.

(iii) Players warming up under the direction of Match Officials.

(d) Any Team Official who leaves the bench and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organise the activities of the Team from the bench or to attend to an injured Player of the Team for the duration of the Match.



(e) Should the Substitution / Interchange of a Player become necessary, a Team Official will notify the Fourth Official or Assistant Referee of the change and will remain with the player at the centre line until the Player is called onto the field of play.

(f) If there is no Fourth Official, or assistant Referee, the Team Official shall take the substitute Player to the centre line and shall remain with the Player until they are called onto the field of play by the Referee.

**11.3.** Should a Player injury occur, the Team Official (1 only) will be called onto the field of play by the Match Official, to attend the injured player.

(a) In the event on an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of the first aid attendant or a Team Official.

**11.4.** The participants in the technical area are subject to the jurisdiction of the referee, assistant referees and fourth official for the duration of the match.

**11.5.** A Player or Team Official who has been sent from the field of play or is serving a suspension is not permitted to occupy a place in the technical area during a fixture.

**11.6.** No alcohol is to be consumed in the technical areas.

## **12. ADMISSION CHARGES**

**12.1.** No admission may be charged for Competition Fixtures.

**12.2.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine admission fees for Grand Final Competition Fixtures.

## **13. PLAYER UNIFORM / EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**13.1.** Club Colours must be approved by NNSWF.

(a) In the Northern Inland Premier League, Clubs are required to have Home and Alternative Kits, for both Outfield Players and Goalkeepers.

(b) Clubs must submit full colour images of both their Home and Alternate Kits by January 31<sup>st</sup> if they are changing colour scheme.

(c) The Match Officials will decide on the day if any alternation constitutes a clash.

(d) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials, including shirt, shorts, and socks. If the Referee deems there is a clash with the Goalkeepers playing apparel, the Goalkeeper must change their apparel in accordance with the Referee's requirements which may include socks being worn on the outside of the pants.

(e) Should a Goalkeeper take the place of an Outfield Player during a Match, said Goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts, jersey and socks as the rest of the Outfield Team.



**(f)** Club playing kits must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game and FIFA Equipment Regulations.

**(g)** It is the responsibility of the Match Official to officiate in colours which are not likely to be mistaken for those of the Outfield Players and / or Goalkeepers from either Team.

### **13.2. Equipment**

**(a)** A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another Player (including any kind of jewellery) as outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game.

**(b)** Shin guards must be worn by all Players at all times during any fixture as outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game. A shin guard should provide a reasonable level of protection.

**13.3.** Law 4 of the FIFA Laws of the Game states that basic compulsory equipment worn by Players must not have any political, religious or personal statements:

**(a)** Where a Player contravenes this Regulation, their Team may be subject to sanction by NNSWF Northern Inland where the contravention occurred or by FIFA;

**(b)** Basic compulsory equipment is inclusive of Players jerseys, shorts and socks (stockings), shin guards and footwear.

**13.4.** In addition, Article 8 of the FIFA Equipment Regulations states that Player equipment items may contain decorative elements, provided that they do not produce the visual impression of a religious symbol or comparable symbol. A decorative element is defined as a further aesthetic element, other than identifications of a Member Association or Manufacturer's Identifications, which are added to, and used in, the design of any Player equipment item.

**13.5.** The numbers on the back of shirts must be of a consistent design and dimensions, as approved by NNSWF. They must be in complete contrast to dominant colours of the shirt (i.e. white or light colour numerals on dark coloured shirts and black or dark colour numerals on light coloured shirts).

**13.6.** Where dominant shirt colours are light or dark colours or horizontal, vertical, or diagonal stripes or carry a multi-coloured pattern thereon, which may impair the clear identification of the number from a distance of 100 metres, then the numeral must be placed on a plain coloured panel, in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

**(a)** For number size and placement, refer to Appendix C.

**13.7.** Sponsor branding can be included on the playing strip, with suggested areas noted in appendix C.



**(a)** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the placement of a sponsor's logo/emblem on any Club kit in the event that the sponsor and/or sponsor's branding:

- (i)** is determined by NNSWF Northern Inland to be inappropriate and/or offensive;
- (ii)** has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football;
- (iii)** conflicts with NNSWF Northern Inland Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Competition; and/or
- (iv)** contravenes the FIFA Laws of the Game and/ or FIFA Equipment Laws including by referencing or containing a national or political flag, foreign nation, political emblem, religious or racial inference or foreign language.

**(b)** If requested by NNSWF Northern Inland, Clubs must make a submission and provide evidence within 21 days as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of the sponsorship (financial or in kind) which will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland at its absolute discretion.

**(c)** Clubs that seek to acknowledge sponsors that may breach Regulation 13.6 are required to apply to NNSWF Northern Inland for prior written approval to use the proposed sponsor logos on Club kits.

#### **14. EXPENSES**

**14.1.** All expenses incurred participating in a competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Teams. NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion, make a contribution from NNSWF Northern Inland funds to help offset costs.

#### **15. OFFICIAL FIXTURES DRAW**

**15.1.** All Matches to be contested in each competition shall be prepared by NNSWF Northern Inland and upon publication, shall be known as the Official Fixtures Draw.

**15.2.** Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules on the same subject matter, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to alter, abandon or amend any Match after it has been nominated in the Official Fixtures Draw.

#### **16. KICK-OFF TIMES**

##### **16.1.** Scheduled Fixtures

**(a)** Matches should be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures Draw;

**(b)** A Match should start at the nominated kick-off times provided that when a Match starts later than the stipulated time, short time will be played in equal halves to allow the following Match to start at the scheduled time;



- (c) All Competition Fixtures on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday, may not be scheduled before 8am.
- (d) Senior Competition Fixtures between Monday and Friday may not be scheduled before 5.30pm, with the exception of Public Holidays and school Holidays.
- (e) Youth Competition Fixtures between Monday and Friday may not be scheduled before 4pm.
- (f) Competition Fixtures may not be scheduled to commence after 8.30pm.
- (g) Notwithstanding the above, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the kick-off times for all Competition Fixtures;
- (h) Finals Series Fixtures may kick off at different times and/or days than those during the point score season.

### 17. LIGHTING

- 17.1. A Match may be played on any day, wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the standard of lighting shall meet relevant Australian Standards.

### 18. CHANGE OF VENUE / FIXTURE REQUEST BY CLUB

#### 18.1. Change of Venue Requests

- (a) Change of Venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved Venue;
- (b) A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate Competition Fixtures to an improved Venue must be received by NNSWF Northern Inland no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures. NNSWF Northern Inland shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the Venue and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Regulation 19.2;
- (c) Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or Venue conditions may be considered within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixtures at the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland;
- (d) Alternate Venues need to be approved by NNSWF Northern Inland prior to confirmation of usage.

#### 18.2. Fixture Date / Time Change Requests

- (a) NNSWF Northern Inland will consider a Competition Fixtures change request by a Club if the request is received no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures with written consent provided to NNSWF by the Club Officials of both Clubs. Any request submitted within 14 days is subject to the availability of Match Officials and the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland;



(b) No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any competition;

(c) Scheduled NNSWF Northern Inland Competition catch-up rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.

**18.3.** Regulations 18.1 and 18.2 do not apply to Finals Series Competition Fixtures.

**18.4.** Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Regulation 18 is subject to NNSWF Northern Inland right to reschedule a Competition Fixture.

**18.5.** NNSWF Northern Inland decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

**18.6.** Deferral of Fixtures

(a) A Team may seek permission from NNSWF Northern Inland to have a fixture(s) deferred. This will be reviewed on a case to case basis by NNSWF Northern Inland, with the outcome relayed to participating teams.

(b) Such requests for deferrals must be received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture.

(c) Due notice to defer a fixture may be waived in the event of a critical incident which occurs within the 14-day period in Regulation 19.6. NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the validity of a critical incident and the result of any fixture deferred due to a critical incident.

(d) NNSWF Northern Inland shall reschedule the date for the playing of a deferred fixture.

(e) NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion declare a deferred fixture cancelled.

## **19. FORFEITED FIXTURES**

**19.1.** A Team that, without Just Cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition Fixture on the appointed date, time or Venue (except for in accordance with Regulation 24) shall for each and every offence forfeit that Competition Fixture.

**19.2.** Any forfeit shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team.

**19.3.** The offending Team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponent relative to the fixture as determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

**19.4.** Any points, goals scored, or votes acquired by the forfeiting Team will be removed from record.

**19.5.** Any forfeit within 24 hours of the fixture, will result in the offending Team paying all appropriate Match Official fees and any another penalty as determined by the NNSWF Northern Inland.



**19.6.** A Team forfeiting on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, will be given a show cause notice on why your team should remain in the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 6 of Appendix A.

**19.7.** In the event of a team forfeiting on 2 or more occasions in the Northern Inland Premier League, without an acceptable reason, the club will be given a show cause notice on why both grades should remain in their respective competitions and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 6 of Appendix A.

## **20. START TIMES**

**20.1.** With the exception of any delay outside the control of the participating Teams, a Match must start at the scheduled time and may not start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled Match starting time.

**20.2.** Any Team unable to or unwilling to begin a fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Match.

**20.3.** A Team refusing to start a Match shall be fined in accordance with Section 9 of Appendix A and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

## **21. MINIMUM NUMER OF PLAYERS**

**21.1.** For all 11-a-side competitions a Team must field a minimum 7 of its eligible Players at all times in a Match in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game;

(a) For competitions with modified playing numbers the minimum number of Players shall be defined in the respective Competition Rules;

**21.2.** Any Club who does not have the minimum number of Players to commence a Competition Fixture will be deemed to have forfeited that Competition Fixture.

**21.3.** If a Club is unable to maintain a minimum of 7 players for the duration of a Competition Fixture, that Competition Fixture will be abandoned.

**21.4.** In the case of abandoned Competition Fixtures relation to regulation 21.3.

(a) Results and Match details will be dealt with in accordance to Regulation 24.2.

**21.5.** A team starting a match and failing to continue due to the inability to maintain the minimum number of 7 players on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, may be removed from the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 7 of Appendix A.

## **22. APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITION FIXTURES**

**22.1.** A Club shall not play in any other fixture/competition in opposition to NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Fixture unless it has received prior written approval from NNSWF Northern Inland.



### 23. WEATHER AFFECTED FIXTURES / DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

**23.1.** In all instances where weather or other incidents preceding a fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place the following shall apply:

**(a)** For Council Controlled Venues

**(i)** Council representatives will inspect the Venue in line with Council policy and directives and decide whether play can take place for any fixtures at that venue. Council representatives will notify Competition Administrators and Host Clubs.

**(ii)** The Competition Administrators will notify all Clubs.

**(iii)** A decision should be made no later than 7:15am.

**(b)** For Club Controlled Venues

**(i)** The Host Club are to inspect the Venue on the day of Competition Fixtures and decide whether play can take place during the day. In addition, the Host Club Official shall advise the Away Team(s) and the Match Official Appointments Officer;

**(ii)** In the event of a Venue being declared unfit for play due to inclement weather, Clubs are required to submit photos / short videos to NNSWF Northern Inland of the affected areas within 24 hours after the scheduled Competition Fixtures.

### 24. ABANDONED FIXTURES

**24.1.** Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

**24.2.** The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, the following reasons:

**(a)** a Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of 7 players;

**(b)** the lighting at the Venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;

**(c)** the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

**(d)** the Match Official, in consultation with duty officers, determines that the conditions for Players, Team Officials, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.

**24.3.** If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Regulation 24.2 NNSWF Northern Inland may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:



- (a)** If 75% or more of Normal Time of a Northern Inland 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland with reference to the Match Official and may or may not be reflective on when the full-time whistle was blown.
- (b)** If 50% or more of Normal Time of any Competition Fixture, with the exception of NIPL 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland with reference to the Match Official and may or may not be reflective on when the full-time whistle was blown.
- (c)** Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
- (d)** Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
- (e)** Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
- (f)** Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, NNSWF Northern Inland will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0);
- (g)** Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:
  - (i)** The score at the time of the abandonment remains at the time the Competition Fixture recommences;
  - (ii)** Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competitions Fixture between the 2 Teams will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless NNSWF Northern Inland determines that additional Players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury or availability);
  - (iii)** NNSWF Northern Inland will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).
- (h)** Competition Fixture at the time of abandonment is to stand;

**24.4.** A Team causing a fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a "Mass Walk Off" or refusal to allow play to continue, shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.



**24.5.** In respect of the above Regulations, the decision of NNSWF Northern Inland shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority. The action of NNSWF Northern Inland in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from decisions as determined by the Competition Administrator and / or the Disciplinary Chairman in respect of Players charged with offences by a referee and/or assistant referee.

### **25. FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED**

**25.1.** In the event that weather or other causes, disrupt a competition to such an extent that it will not be completed within the Competition Fixtures time frame, NNSWF Northern Inland may cancel all or any Premiership / Final Series Matches to complete as many Competition Fixtures as possible in the Premiership and/or the Final Series.

**25.2.** Should a Match be declared cancelled by NNSWF Northern Inland, each competing Team shall be awarded a draw result. The goal score shall be recorded as 0-0.

**25.3.** Should a Finals Series fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control, NNSWF Northern Inland shall reschedule the postponed / abandoned Finals Series Fixture prior to the next scheduled Final Series fixture.

**25.4.** Should continuing inclement weather prevent the rescheduling of either semi-final fixture the highest place Team as determined in Regulation 2 of this document will progress to the next final series stage.

**25.5.** Should a grand final fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the result of the fixture.

### **26. TEAMS WITHDRAWN / REMOVED FROM COMPETITIONS**

**26.1.** If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and:

**(a)** All Premiership points along with goals scored (for & against) for:

**(i)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain;

**(ii)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team after the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

**(b)** All Player award votes gained in:

**(i)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal amount of times will remain;



(ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Team have played each other and equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

(c) For the avoidance of doubt, NNSWF Northern Inland may consider forfeited Competition Fixtures as Played for the purposes of Regulation 27.1 (a).

**26.2.** Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. Red / Yellow Cards in all fixtures involving of the withdrawn Team, will be upheld.

**26.3.** If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a “BYE” will be inserted into the fixture, or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams.

**26.4.** If a Team is withdrawn prior the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a ‘BYE’ will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and

(a) All premiership points along with goals scored (for & against) for Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased;

(b) All Player award votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased.

**26.5.** NNSWF Northern Inland may alter Competition Fixtures kick-off dates, Venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion due to the removal or withdrawal of a Team.

## 27. TEAM SHEETS

**27.1.** Each Club is responsible for completing the Official Team Sheet for each Competition Fixture they are participating in through Squadi.

**27.2.** All Team Sheets are to be completed by both Teams a minimum of 15-minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

(a) Amendments are permitted to be made to the Team Sheet up until kick-off of the match, subject to Match Official notification.

**27.3.** The number on the Player’s shirt and/or shorts shall correspond with the Player’s name and number on the Team Sheet and there should be no change of a number before or during a Match except on a change of Goalkeeper or blood/damage to a playing shirt.

**27.4.** Clubs failing to comply with Team Sheet regulations will be subject to a fine as outlined in Section 10 of Appendix A.

(a) Any Squadi technical issues preventing team sheet and/or formation completion must be notified to the Match Official as soon as possible prior to kick-off. Failure to do so will result in the applicable fine.



**27.5.** All players participating in Competition Fixtures will be required to provide an up-to-date profile photo on their PlayFootball account to eliminate the use of ineligible players across the region.

### **28. MATCH DETAIL DISPUTES**

**28.1.** Match Card Disputes will only be investigated by NNSWF Northern Inland in the following circumstances:

- (a)** The Match Record and request to conduct a Match investigation is lodged with NNSWF Northern Inland within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
- (b)** The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a Match investigation:
  - (i)** Video or photography evidence.
  - (ii)** Statutory Declaration(s); and
  - (iii)** Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland.

**28.2.** Match details will only be amended if NNSWF Northern Inland is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. There is no appeal against NNSWF Northern Inland's decision.

**28.3.** For the avoidance of doubt any dispute relating to a suspension will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 33.

**28.4.** NNSWF may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Regulation 28.3 at its discretion.

**28.5.** NNSWF Northern Inland may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Regulation 28.3 (a), at its discretion.

**28.6.** Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Team Sheet, they should note such concern via email to [jkellaway@northernnswfootball.com.au](mailto:jkellaway@northernnswfootball.com.au) and in addition advise the Match Official.

- (a)** The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Match and NNSWF Northern Inland shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s) upon receipt of any report.

**28.7.** A person and/or Club found guilty of deliberately supplying false information on a Team Sheet shall be subject to disciplinary action and may be fined in accordance with Section 10 of Appendix 1.

### **29. SUBSTITUTION/INTERCHANGE**

#### **29.1. Substitution (NIPL First Grade)**

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



**(b)** A Team will be permitted to utilise 3 substitution periods during the match:

- (i)** A Team's substitution periods can be used at the discretion of that Team.
- (ii)** Teams may make substitutions during the half-time period, which will not count as one of their substitution periods.
- (iii)** During the Final Series, Teams will receive 1 extra substitution period per half of extra-time.

**29.2.** In the event of an injury causing a Player to be unable to continue in the match, an Injury Substitution may be permitted, for the injured Player only, at the discretion of the Match Official which will not count toward the three substitutions periods outline in Rule 29.1. The injured player may not return to play.

### **29.3. Unlimited Interchange**

**(a)** A team is permitted to list a maximum of five (5) interchange Players on the match card and may make an unlimited number of interchanges during a fixture.

**(b)** Unlimited Interchange applies to all competition fixtures except for Northern Inland Premier League First Grade fixtures.

## **30. MATCH OFFICIALS**

**30.1.** Each Match, (including Trial Game fixtures) wherever possible, shall be played under the control of a registered referee and assistant Match officials (hereinafter called Match Officials) who are appointed by NNSWF – NI.

**30.2.** In the event of no appointed Match Official being in attendance 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time, the Home Team shall be responsible for the appointment of a replacement Match Official for the Match.

**(a)** Failure of the Home Team to do so shall result in a forfeit being awarded to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 20.2;

**(b)** Failure by the Away Team to accept the appointed person shall result in a forfeit to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 20.2;

**(c)** The appointed person shall assume the full authority of a Match Official and shall be recognised as such.

**30.3.** Any Club appointed Match Official for an age grade competition should not be younger than 14 years of age and should be a minimum of 2 years older than the age grade they are appointed to referee.

**30.4.** Should the appointed person be 18 years of age they are entitled to referee senior (18 years plus) competitions.



**30.5.** In the event of non-attendance of a Match Official, both teams will still be required to submit their team sheet through Squadi, and all match details should be provided to NNSWF – Northern Inland within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match.

**30.6.** The Match Official shall record all key Match information including, but not limited to, goal scorers, Red and Yellow Cards and substitutions on the Team Sheet.

**30.7.** Any postponement or abandonment of a fixture must be submitted on Squadi by the Match Official.

**30.8.** The referee and assistant Match officials shall report, in writing, any misconduct they have witnessed or breach of the Laws of the Game, including a Player and/or Team Official Red Card to NNSWF Northern Inland within 48 hours after the end of the Match.

**30.9.** The referee/assistant Match officials may be required to attend the respective disciplinary hearing as determined by the Disciplinary Chairman.

### **31. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES**

**31.1.** Match Official's fees for Competition Fixtures and Trial Games are outlined in Appendix F.

**31.2.** Each participating Team in any Premiership / Finals Series Competition Fixture (excluding Grand Finals) shall be invoiced for payment 50% of Match Official fees for that Match.

**31.3.** NNSWF shall pay the Match Officials' fees for all NNSWF – Northern Inland administered competition grand finals.

### **32. PLAYING NAME & CLUB LOGO**

**32.1.** No club shall be admitted competing in NSNWF Northern Inland Competitions for the upcoming season where such Club's playing name / Club emblem has not been approved in writing by NNSWF. A Club's playing name must be in accordance with the Football Australia Inclusivity Principals for Club Identity.

### **33. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

#### **33.1.** Application of National and Zone Regulations

All disciplinary matters within NNSWF- Northern Inland competitions will be governed by the following regulations

(a) Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR)

(b) Northern NSW Football Code of Conduct Regulations

(c) Competition Disciplinary and Integrity Unit (CDIU) processes

(d) NNSWF- Northern Inland Zone Regulatory Amendment Schedule (ZRAS) as outlined in Appendix G

**33.2.** The Competition Administrator may (in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations and ZRAS):



- (a) Determine and impose mandatory disciplinary sanctions and or impose fines and/or suspensions as per these Competition Regulation or relevant Competition Rules;
- (b) Cite a Player, Team Official or Club to appear before its Disciplinary Committee;
- (c) Suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise a Player, Team Official, or Club or any other person whom they consider has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulation, Competition Rules or has brought the code into disrepute.

### 33.3. Mandatory Suspensions

- (a) A Suspension is a ban or prohibition imposed on a Club or Club Associate from participating in a Match in a specific capacity, either for a period of time, or for a number of Matches (Rounds)
- (b) Minimum mandatory suspensions for Red Card offences are outlined in Appendix G as per the ZRAS.
- (c) For the purposes of these Regulations, unless otherwise directed by NNSWF, a Club Associate with a Suspension imposed in respect of circumstances where the individual was directly involved in a Match, may attend Competition Fixtures as a spectator only but must not participate as either a Coach, Player or in any official capacity for any NNSWF Club. This means and includes, but is not limited to a Suspended Club Associate may not:
  - (i) Enter the field of play and/or change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 15 minutes after the Competition Fixture;
  - (ii) Be within 10m of the Technical Area for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match;
  - (iii) Take, or otherwise be involved in, training sessions or warm-ups on Match day.
  - (iv) Give the Team or Players instructions, either directly or via a third-party, on Match Day (this does not prohibit giving encouragement or barracking);
  - (v) Be in the change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Match, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match;
  - (vi) Complete Team / Match Sheets; or
  - (vii) Otherwise approach the Senior Match Official to discuss any aspects of the Match as a representative of the Team or Club, or otherwise hold themselves out as having the authority of a Club Associate for the Match.
- (d) An individual Suspended under Appendix G may, unless otherwise directed by the Disciplinary Committee:



- (i) Act as an Assistant Referee, provided that the Senior Match Official is made aware of the individual's Suspension and permits the involvement.
  - (ii) Attend team training sessions; or
  - (iii) Participate in NNSWF Northern Inland Summer Football programs, unless the individual's Suspension is for conduct greater than 4 weeks length of Suspension.
- (e) Any violation of Appendix G may be deemed Misconduct and subject to further NNSWF Disciplinary sanctions as follows:
  - (i) Recommending the Club Associate's Suspension from the date of the violation of the Suspension; or
  - (ii) Referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee for determination of Misconduct.
- (f) In all cases where an individual is Suspended and ordered to undertake training, provide a written apology, or complete any other tasks as required by the Disciplinary Committee, the individual shall remain Suspended until such time as all aspects of the determination have been satisfied or completed.
- (g) Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for an accumulation of Yellow Cards as outlined in Appendix G during the competition and subsequently receives a suspension from a Red Card in line with Appendix G will be subject to an additional Match suspension:
  - (i) The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension;

#### **33.4. Serving A Suspension:**

- (a) A Club Associate must serve a Suspension without delay and a Suspension shall remain in effect until served in full irrespective of a change of status, league, level or age group.
- (b) In all cases until a Suspension is served in full, a Club Associate must not participate in any other Match at any level in NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions. This includes Suspensions that are not totally served in a Competition Season and that are carried over and served in future or subsequent seasons;
- (c) A Suspension arising out of a Finals Series which is not served in full in that Finals Series shall be carried over to the following Competition Season in which the Club Associate participates;
- (d) If a Match is postponed prior to its commencement, such Match will not be classified as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining;



**(e)** A Match that is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, shall count as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining unless:

- (i)** An incident leading to the Abandonment or Forfeit of a Match is referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- (ii)** For the avoidance of doubt: where a Match is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, and is subsequently re-played, the Abandoned / Forfeited Match shall not be considered to be a Match served under Suspension, and the relevant Player or other Club Associate will serve their Suspension in the next available Match.

### **33.5. Accumulation of Yellow Cards:**

**(a)** A Player or Club Official who accumulates Yellow Cards during the course of the competition must serve mandatory Match suspensions in accordance with Appendix G. This suspension takes effect immediately and must be served in the next scheduled match in the relevant competition round. For example, if a player receives their 5<sup>th</sup> Yellow Card in any Senior Competition, they will be suspended for any Senior Fixtures remaining in the Round.

**(b)** Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for a Red Card as outlined in APPENDIX G during the competition and subsequently accumulates Yellow Cards in line with APPENDIX G will be subject to an additional Match suspension:

- (i)** The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension.

**(c)** It is the Clubs responsibility to record and monitor all Player/team Official infringements and impose sanctions in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations and competition rules;

**(d)** The accumulation of Yellow Cards in a Final Series is inclusive of all grades participating in the Final Series.

**(e)** Yellow Cards accumulation totals are only relevant in the competition (League of Cup) in which they are received (ie., a yellow card received in the Australia Cup, does not add to the total accumulation for a player in Northern Inland competitions)

- (i)** For the avoidance of doubt, yellow cards accumulated in any Senior Northern Inland competition will accumulate towards a combined total if a Player or Team Official moves between these division.
- (ii)** Any suspension received as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards will take effect immediately and the Player or Team Official will be ineligible to participate in any fixtures remaining in the Round. (ie., a Player or Team Official receiving a Yellow Card in a Senior Competition on a Friday night, resulting in a suspension, will be ineligible to participate in any Senior Fixture Round scheduled on Saturday or Sunday).



### 33.6. Accumulation of Red Cards

- (a)** Disciplinary sanctions resulting from the accumulation of red cards will be applied in accordance with the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations and the Zone Regulatory Amendment Schedule
- (b)** Players stood down by the club will not be deemed to have served a suspension if NNSWF Northern Inland has not confirmed the suspension in writing.
- (c)** It is the Club's responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.
- (d)** Red cards received in any competition, including Cup or League, will be counted towards the accumulation of red cards noted in Appendix G
- (e)** Suspensions resulting from an accumulation of red cards must be served in the Player or Team Official's next Competition Match.

### 33.7. Misconduct of a Team

- (a)** A minimum sanction of a \$300 fine will be imposed on any club for the misconduct of a Team which includes, but is not limited to:
  - (i)** 5 players/Team Officials or more are cautioned or sent off during a Match.
  - (ii)** 3 players/Team Officials or more are sent off during a Match.

### 33.8. Match Official Abuse

- (a)** In line with Northern NSW Football's Match Official Support Policy – Zero Tolerance, the following additional sanctions will be applied for any incidents of Match Official Abuse:
  - (i)** Any Player or Team Official found guilty of a 2<sup>nd</sup> offence will receive a minimum added 4 match suspension, to the sanction given to the intimal offence.
  - (ii)** If a Player of Team Official commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse, they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.
  - (iii)** If a Player or Team Official is sanctioned by suspension for offences against a Match Official, they will not be permitted to attend any competition fixtures during this suspension.
- (b)** Any Player, Team or Club Official within a Team who is sanctioned for Match Official Abuse, will cause the team to incur 3 competition points deduction for that team, wholly suspended for the remainder of the Regular Season.
- (c)** Should a Team, already subject to the suspended 3 point deduction as set out in 32.9(b), have a Player, Team or Club Official subject to a further sanction for Match



Official abuse the team will be deducted a further 3 competition points in addition to the previously suspended 3 points, totalling an immediate deduction of 6 competition points for the second offence within the team.

- (i) Any subsequent instance of Match Official abuse will incur a sanction of 3 competition points for that team, and the club will be required to attend a hearing with the Disciplinary Chair/Committee
- (d) A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its participants (even if that participant subsequently leaves the Club).
- (e) Any spectator found guilty of Match Official abuse towards a Senior Match Official will be suspended for a minimum of 30 days.
- (f) Any spectator found guilty of Match Official abuse toward and Match official under the age of 18 years, will be suspended for a minimum of 12 months.
- (g) In addition to any National Disciplinary Regulation sanctions applied to any Player, Team or Club Official found guilty of Match Official abuse, intimidation and/or harassment will be sanctioned in accordance with the Code of Conduct Regulations with minimum sanctions applied as follows:

### 33.9. Mistaken Identity

- (a) Where NNSWF can be satisfied through clear and verifiable video evidence, that a referee:
  - (i) Issued in error a Yellow Card and/or Red Card during the Match to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or
  - (ii) Expelled in error a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who should have been Expelled)

NNSWF – Northern Inland may amend the disciplinary record to correct the identity of the participant, provided the process outlined in this regulation has been followed
- (b) Clubs seeking to have any Yellow or Red Card amended due to mistaken identity must submit via email within 48 hours of the Match concluding:
  - (i) The name of the player incorrectly identified.
  - (ii) The name of the player that should have received the Yellow / Red Card.
  - (iii) A link to the footage; and
  - (iv) The time the incident occurred.
- (c) Any submission that does not meet the requirements set out in this regulation will not be considered.



**33.10.** Any allegations of misconduct by a club, must be submitted in writing to NNSWF by a Club Official within 14 days of the alleged incident.

### **34. FINANCIAL STATUS**

#### **34.1. Competition Member**

- (a)** Should the accounts from NNSWF Northern Inland to a competition member remain unpaid for a period of 30 days after they become due, then the competition member may, after notice of default, be declared an unfinancial competition member;
- (b)** NNSWF Northern Inland may consider allowing an unfinancial competition member to continue participation in the competitions up to a period not exceeding 4 Competition Fixtures;
- (c)** Unfinancial competition members may not receive any competition points in these 4 fixtures;
- (d)** A Team may not be entitled to participate in a Final Series fixture if its Club has not paid accounts due in full, before its last Premiership fixture:
  - (i)** Should a vacancy occur in a Final Series, NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion fill that vacancy with the next highest placed Team on the points table.
- (e)** A Club may not be entitled to be considered for future membership of NNSWF Northern Inland competitions if its financial obligations, other than those subject to the normal terms of payment, have not been paid in full by 30<sup>th</sup> September each year;
- (f)** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to relegate a Club not fulfilling its financial obligations to a lower competition or refuse its membership.

#### **34.2. Player / Team Official / Match Official**

- (a)** Should the accounts from NNSWF Northern Inland to a Player/Team Official/Match Official remain unpaid for a period of 14 days after they become due, then the Player/Team Official/Match Official may after notice of default be declared unfinancial and subject to sanctions as determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

### **35. EMBLEMS AND SLOGANS**

**35.1.** In accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, Clubs are prohibited from displaying political emblems, religious or racial slogans and emblems at sanctioned fixtures and on any part of the Players' attire or any uniform worn by Club Officials.



**35.2.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right at its absolute discretion to approve or deny a Club's proposed use of logos and/or emblems that breach Regulation 35.1. NNSWF Northern Inland will consider whether the proposal is reflective of a Clubs' heritage or history.

**35.3.** Clubs may not display, distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, without the prior written consent of NNSWF to do so.

**35.4.** All Clubs must have the prior written approval of NNSWF Northern Inland before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

**35.5.** NNSWF Northern Inland may request the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

**35.6.** If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and any Club of which that person is associated may be sanctioned and disciplined in accordance with Part V of the FA Statutes.

### **36. SALE OF ALCOHOL**

**36.1.** Clubs seeking to sell, or supply alcohol must obtain the applicable liquor license and comply with all legislative requirements.

(a) NNSWF takes no responsibility for any Club participating within its Northern Inland Competitions that does not comply with relevant legislation.

**36.2.** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to direct a Club not to sell or to restrict the sale of alcohol at any fixture under its jurisdiction.

### **37. GROUND SIGNAGE AND SPONSOR BRANDING**

**37.1.** In accordance with the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour, the display of any sign or banner featuring political emblems, religious and racial inferences is strictly prohibited at sanctioned fixtures.

**37.2.** In addition to regulation 36.1 above, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the display of ground signage at fixtures sanctioned by NNSWF Northern Inland in the event that the signage:

(a) is determined by NNSWF to be inappropriate and/or offensive;

(b) has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football;

(c) conflicts with the NNSWF Northern Inland Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Northern Inland Competition;

(d) features a religious emblem or symbol.



**37.3.** If requested by NNSWF Northern Inland, Clubs must make a submission and provide sufficient evidence as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of any sponsorship. The legitimacy of Club sponsorship will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland at its absolute discretion.

**37.4.** Clubs that seek to display signage that conflicts with the terms outlined in Regulation 37.2 are instructed and required to contact NNSWF Northern Inland for prior written approval.

**37.5.** Clubs are required to remove offending signage at NNSWF Northern Inland total discretion and direction.

**37.6.** The above terms also apply to any other form of sponsor branding including but not limited to equipment and Club stationery.

### **38. MATCH OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS**

**38.1.** Any club wishing to provide feedback on a Match Official performance is required to do so through [NNSWF Referee Feedback Form \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com). Any feedback in relation to Match Official performance submitted in any other format will not be reviewed or considered.



### APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Minimum Cost</u>	
<b>1. Home/Host Team Responsibilities</b>			
1 a	Failure to provide approved Match Balls (Home Team)	\$100	Per offence
1 b	Deficiency in ground (Host Team)	\$100	Per offence
<b>2. Ineligibility</b>			
2 a	Playing an ineligible Player	\$200	Per offence
2 b	Use of false ID tag, Team Official	\$200	Per offence
<b>3</b>	Playing for another Club	\$1000	Per offence
<b>4</b>	Player Bringing Code into Disrepute	\$1000	Per offence
<b>5</b>	Inducement to Bring About a Result	\$2000	Per offence
<b>4. Player Uniform / Gear Requirements</b>			
4 a	Failure to wear correct alternate strip, resulting in a clash	\$100	Per Team
4 b	Failure to have playing strips approved by NNSWF	\$200	Per strip
4 c	Inappropriate sponsor branding	\$500	Per round
<b>5.</b>	Failure to obtain consent for kick off time change	\$200	Per offence
<b>6. Forfeited Fixtures</b>			
6 a	Forfeited fixtures – Two or more occasions	\$200	Per offence
6 b	Forfeited fixtures – With no reason	\$500	Per offence
<b>7. Abandoned Fixtures</b>			
7 a	Caused by a Player	\$500	Per offence
7 b	Caused by a Club	\$1000	Per offence
7 c	Caused by another Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
<b>8</b>	Mass Walk Off	\$500	Per offence
<b>9</b>	Refusing to start a fixture	\$500	Per offence
<b>10. Team Sheets</b>			



10 a	Failure to lodge a Team Sheet	\$100	Per offence
10 b	Failure to complete a team Sheet within required timelines	\$100	Per offence
10 c	Illegible Team Sheet (if paper used)	\$100	Per offence
10 d	Supplying false information on a Team Sheet	\$1000	Per offence
10 e	Failure to include the required number of Duty/Match Official Support Officer on Team Sheets	\$100	Per offence
10 f	Failure to include Coach, Manager, Team Officials	\$100	Per offence
10 g	Three Players, Teams or Club Officials found guilty of Match Official abuse across all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth	\$1000	Per offence
<b>11.</b>	<b>Code of Conduct</b>		
11 a	Breach of Code of Conduct by Player of Team Official	\$500	Per offence
11 b	Breach of Code of Conduct / Spectator Code of Behaviour by Player of Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
11 c	Misconduct of a Team	\$300	Per offence
11 d	Display of prohibited flags, slogans or emblems	\$500	Per offence
<b>12</b>	<b>Administrative and League Correspondents</b>		
12 a	Failure to submit required documents to NNSWF-NI within Timelines	\$200	Per offence
12 b	Failure to respond, engage and/or communicate with NNSWF League Correspondence	\$250	Per offence
12 c	Coaches failing to respond to Correspondence	\$250	Per offence
<b>13</b>	<b>Match Official Abuse</b>		
13 a	First Offence of Match Official Abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$500	Per offence
13 b	Second Offence of Match Official Abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$1000	Per offence
13 c	Third and subsequent offence of Match Official Abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$2500	Per offence
13 d	Serious offences of Match Official Abuse (Including but not limited to offences noted from table 32.4 R8.5 to R8.9)	\$5000	Per offence



**APPENDIX B – APPEAL FEES**

<b>Disciplinary Sanctions</b>	
Appeal to NNSWF Competition Administrator <sup>1</sup>	\$500
<b>Code of Conduct Sanction</b>	
Application for a Grievance Hearing NNSWF Competition Administrator <sup>2</sup>	\$1000
Grievance Appeal Fee NNSWF <sup>1</sup>	\$1500
Grievance Appeal Fee FA <sup>1</sup>	\$2000

<sup>1</sup> - Refundable if appeal completely successful

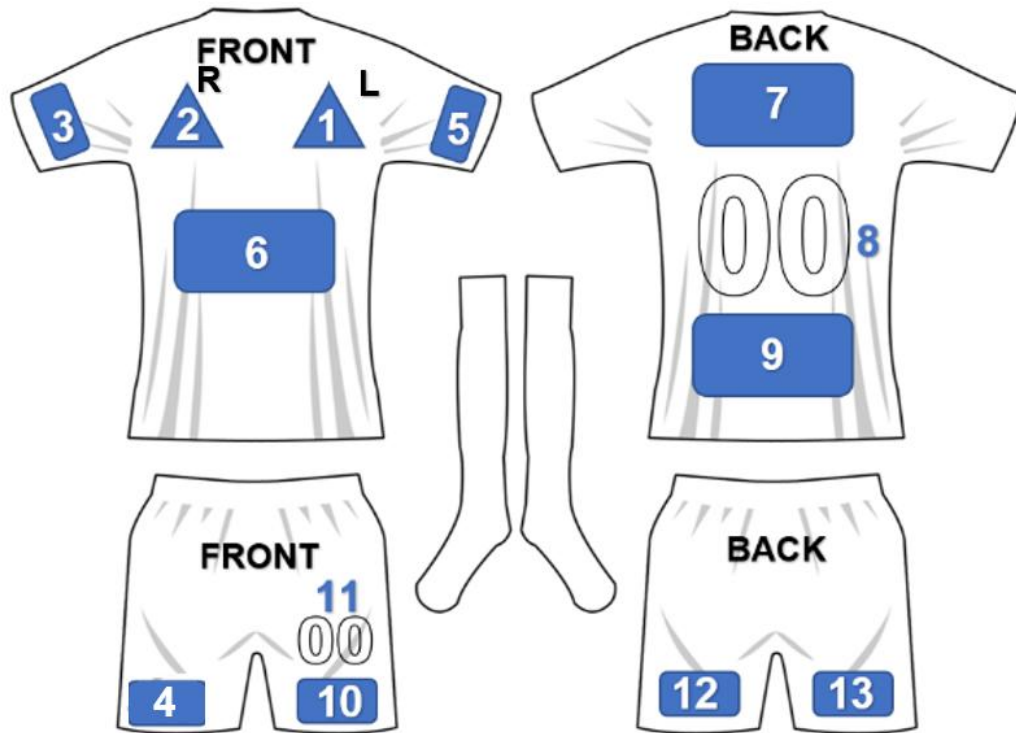
<sup>2</sup> - Non-Refundable



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

### APPENDIX C – PLAYING STRIP BRANDING



Position	NNSWF / Club	Logo	Sizing
1	Club	Club Logo / Emblem	9cm (h) x 9cm (w)
2	Club	Sponsor	9cm (h) x 9cm (w)
3	Club	Sponsor Logo	10cm (h)
4	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
5	Club	Sponsor Logo	10cm (h)
6	Club	Sponsor Logo	30cm (w) x 15cm (h)
7	Club	Player / Club Name or Sponsor	30cm (w) x 10cm (h)
8	Club	Central Player Number	20cm (h)
9	Club	Player / Club Name or Sponsor	30cm (w) x 10cm (h)
10	Club	Club Logo or Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
11	Club	Player Number	10cm (h)
12	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
13	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)



### APPENDIX E - DISCIPLINARY CODES

- 1. Player Red Card** means the sending off of a Player for the commission of the following sending off offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:
  - 1.1.** R1 – serious foul play;
  - 1.2.** R2 – violent conduct;
  - 1.3.** R3 – biting or spitting at someone;
  - 1.4.** R4 – denying the opposing Team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a Goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
  - 1.5.** R5 – otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game;
  - 1.6.** R6 – using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
  - 1.7.** R7 – receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match;
  
- 2. Player Yellow Card** means a caution of a Player by the Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:
  - 2.1.** Y1 – unsporting behaviour;
  - 2.2.** Y2 – dissent by word or action;
  - 2.3.** Y3 – persistent infringement of the FIFA Laws of the Game;
  - 2.4.** Y4 – delaying the restart of play;
  - 2.5.** Y5 – failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or thrown in;
  - 2.6.** Y6 – entering re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee’s permission
  
- 3. Team Official Red Card** means the sending off of a Team Official by a Referee for the commission of the following sending-off offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:
  - 3.1.** R-TO1 – violent conduct;
  - 3.2.** R-TO2 – physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, spectator or any other person (e.g. security or competition official);
  - 3.3.** R-TO3 – using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
  - 3.4.** R-TO4 – biting or spitting at any person;
  - 3.5.** R-TO5 – entering the field of play to:
    - (a)** confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time);
    - (b)** interfere with play or an opposing Player.
  - 3.6.** R-TO6 – deliberately leaving the technical area to:
    - (a)** show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official;
    - (b)** act in a provocative or inflammatory manner;
    - (c)** enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
  - 3.7.** R-TO7 – deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play;



- 3.8.** R-TO8 – delaying the restart of play by the opposing Team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player.
- 3.9.** R-TO9 – receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match
- 4. Team Official Yellow Card** means the caution of a Team Official by Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:
- 4.1.** Y-TO1 - dissent by word or action, including throwing / kicking drinks bottles or other objects to show dissent and/or gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Officials (e.g. sarcastic clapping);
- 4.2.** Y-TO2 – gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way;
- 4.3.** Y-TO3 – gesturing for a Red Card or Yellow Card to be shown;
- 4.4.** Y-TO4 – clearly / persistently not respecting the confines of their Team’s Technical Area;
- 4.5.** Y-TO5 – deliberately entering the Technical Area of the opposing Team (nonconfrontational);
- 4.6.** Y-TO6 – delaying the restart of play by their Team;
- 4.7.** Y-TO7 – showing a lack of respect for the game;
- 4.8.** Y-TO8 – persistent / repeated unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences);



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

### APPENDIX F – MATCH OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE

Age Grade	Referee	Assitant Referee (Each)	4th Official
<b>Senior Competitons</b>			
First Grade - NIPL	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 40.00
Reserve Grade - NIPL	\$ 84.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 40.00
Division 3	\$ 66.00	\$ 33.00	N/A
Division 4	\$ 66.00	\$ 33.00	N/A
Women's Premier	\$ 84.00	\$ 42.00	N/A
Women's 2nd Division	\$ 66.00	\$ 33.00	N/A
<b>Youth Competitions</b>			
Under 18	\$ 52.00	\$ 26.00	N/A
Under 16	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	N/A
Under 15	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	N/A
Under 14	\$ 34.00	\$ 17.00	N/A
Under 13	\$ 34.00	\$ 17.00	N/A
Under 12	\$ 32.00	\$ 16.00	N/A
<b>NNSWF Premier Youth League Boys Competitions - NIAS Rangers FC</b>			
U16	\$ 74.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 24.00
U15	\$ 68.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 22.00
U14	\$ 54.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 22.00
U13	\$ 48.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 22.00
<b>Special Events</b>			
Match Fees Determined by NNSWF			
<b>Travel Allowance</b>			
50 - 249 Kilometres = \$70			
250+ Kilometres = \$100			



### APPENDIX G – ZONE REGULATORY AMENDMENT SCHEDULE- DISCIPLINARY, INTEGRITY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATION

#### 1. Purpose and Application

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- 1.1 The purpose of these Regulations is to establish a uniform and coordinated Disciplinary, Integrity, Complaints and Appeals framework for Football conducted within the Zone. These Regulations form part of the Zone's Competition Regulations and apply to all Football activities administered by the Zone.
- 1.2 These Regulations apply to every Club and to all Participants associated with a Club, whether or not they are formally registered. It also applies to any person who participates in, attends, officiates, volunteers at or is otherwise involved in a Football activity administered by the Zone, regardless of whether that person is affiliated with a Club.
- 1.3 These Regulations must be read together with Football Australia's Statutes, the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations, the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Football Australia National Grievance Procedure By-Law, the Football Australia Integrity Framework and all other applicable national policies. It must also be read together with all Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) Regulations, policies, directives and disciplinary frameworks as amended from time to time, as well as the Zone's own Competition Regulations.
- 1.4 Subject to applicable law, if there is an inconsistency between these Regulations and any other applicable rule or policy, the following order of priority applies:
  - (a) Football Australia Statutes, Regulations and Policies;
  - (b) NNSWF Regulations and Policies;
  - (c) these Regulations;
  - (d) the remainder of the Zone's Competition Regulations.
- 1.5 These Regulations replace any previous disciplinary, integrity or complaints provisions operating within the Zone Regulations to the extent they are inconsistent with the terms and requirements set out in these Regulations. Any disciplinary, Integrity or Complaint Matter already commenced under a previous provision may continue under that provision unless NNSWF directs that the matter be managed under these Regulations.

#### 39. APPLICATION TO ALL CLUBS, PARTICIPANTS AND PERSONS INVOLVED IN ZONE FOOTBALL

- 1.6 These Regulations apply to and are binding upon every Club, Participant, Team, Spectator and any other person who participates in, attends, officiates at, is involved in, or is otherwise connected with any Competition, Match or Football activity administered or sanctioned by the Zone.
- 1.7 By participating in, attending, officiating at, or being otherwise involved in Zone Football activities, each person referenced in **clause 1.6** agrees to be bound these Regulations, the Zone Regulations, all NNSWF Regulations, and all Football Australia statutes, regulations and policies identified in **clause 1.3**.



- 1.8 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Club Associates are made aware of, and comply with, the obligations imposed by these Regulations and must take reasonable steps to prevent and respond to any breach by their Club Associates.
- 1.9 A person's obligations under these Regulations apply regardless of whether they are formally registered, whether they are acting in a paid or volunteer capacity, or whether their involvement with Zone Football is occasional, incidental or ongoing.
- 1.10 These Regulations continue to apply to conduct occurring outside the physical Match environment where the conduct is reasonably connected to a Competition, Club, Match Official, Participant or Football activity, including (without limitation) training, Club activities, online conduct, social media interactions, or conduct that may bring Football into disrepute.

## 2. Definitions

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- 2.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, the following definitions apply. Unless otherwise specified, these terms carry the same meaning as in the NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations.

**Administrator:** any person (other than Staff) engaged by or acting on behalf of a Club, the Zone or NNSWF in a governance, committee, executive, operational or management role, including office bearers, committee members, board members and Competition administrators.

**Appeal:** a formal request made in accordance with the applicable Zone or NNSWF regulations, the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations or the Football Australia National Grievance Procedure seeking review of a disciplinary, Integrity, grievance or other Determination.

**Appeal Levy:** the fee payable on lodging an Appeal, as described in **Schedule 7**.

**Association Football / Football:** the form of the sport of Football (sometimes referred to as Soccer in Australia) governed worldwide by FIFA and domestically by Football Australia, including all formats administered by the Zone or NNSWF such as 11-a-side Football, small-sided Football, and any recognised variants or sanctioned Football activity.

**Auto / Automatic Match Suspension:** the automatic Suspension from participating in a Match or Matches in accordance with, and subject to, these Regulations.

**Business Day:** a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in New South Wales.

**Club:** any Football club affiliated with the Zone or participating in Competitions administered by the Zone.

**Club Associate:** Players, Team Officials, Club Officials, Members, Volunteers, Spectators and Supporters associated with a Club.

**Club Official:** a person holding an executive, management, administrative or elected position within a Club, including board members, committee members, directors,



presidents, secretaries, treasurers and other office bearers.

**Complex Disciplinary Matter:** any disciplinary matter that falls outside a Routine Disciplinary Matter managed by the Zone. This includes, without limitation, administering Automatic Match Suspensions for standard Red Cards issued in accordance with the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations, Red Card Accumulations; matters involving serious foul play or violent conduct that warrant more than an Automatic Match Suspension; attempted violence, conduct falling under the Football Australia Code of Conduct and Ethics; abuse or mistreatment of Match Officials; spitting, assault, repeated Misconduct, allegations of discrimination, vilification, harassment, bullying, or safeguarding concerns; conduct endangering welfare, any conduct potentially bringing Football into disrepute; matters requiring significant evidence gathering; incidents requiring witness management, or any matter referred to NNSWF for independent administration.

**Competition:** any Football league, competition, premiership, Finals Series, tournament, cup, Match, Fixture, program or Football activity that is conducted, administered, sanctioned or recognised by NNSWF, by the Zone, or by a Club under the authority of NNSWF or Football Australia. A Competition includes all Matches, training sessions, events, programs, and associated activities forming part of that Football activity, whether junior, youth, senior, amateur, community or elite.

**Competition Fixture:** any scheduled Match, round, final, Finals Series Match, tournament Match or other Football event forming part of a Competition administered or sanctioned by the Zone or NNSWF, including any re-scheduled, postponed, replayed or continuation Match.

**Competition Regulations:** the Zone's regulations (however described) governing Football Competitions administered by the Zone, as amended from time to time.

**Competition Season:** the Season applicable to a specific individual Competition.

**Complaint:** any expression of dissatisfaction, concern or allegation relating to behaviour, conduct, administration, welfare, Integrity or governance connected with Football activities, whether written, verbal or otherwise.

**Determination:** a formal decision made by the Zone, NNSWF or an Independent Panel under these Regulations that imposes, varies, withdraws or confirms a Sanction, or give directions necessary to implement or enforce a Sanction including a Minimum Mandatory Suspension or any other disciplinary outcome permitted under these Regulations. A Determination does not include routine administrative actions, Automatic Match Suspensions applied under **Schedule A**, or any operational decision that does not alter the rights, obligations or eligibility of a Participant, Team, Club or Spectator.

**FIFA:** Federation Internationale de Football Association who is the international governing body for the sport of Association Football.

**Field of Play:** At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or at an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the Football pitch.



**Finals Series:** the series of Competition Fixtures conducted after the conclusion of the Regular Season to determine final placings, champions, promotion or relegation outcomes for a Competition, as prescribed by these Regulations or the applicable Competition Rules.

**Football Australia:** Football Australia Limited (ACN 106 478 068) and includes its statutes, regulations, Policies and any successor governing body recognised as the national governing body for Football in Australia.

**Incident:** any conduct, act, omission, behaviour, allegation or event occurring during, arising from or in connection with a sanctioned Match, Competition or Football activity.

**Independent Panel:** a disciplinary, Integrity, grievance, Complaints or Appeal panel constituted or appointed by NNSWF in accordance with Football Australia regulations or NNSWF policies, including a First Instance Panel, Appeals Panel or any similar body convened to hear and determine a matter.

**Integrity:** means compliance with the Football Australia Integrity Framework and all related Integrity policies, including matters relating to safeguarding, discrimination, harassment, bullying, child welfare, anti-doping, corruption, wagering, Match manipulation, member protection, and any conduct that may bring Football into disrepute.

**Integrity Framework:** the Football Australia Integrity Framework and all associated guidelines, standards, policies and procedures dealing with Integrity, and any other Integrity-related obligations issued or endorsed by Football Australia.

**Integrity Information:** any information relating to alleged or actual breach of the Football Australia Integrity Framework or any Integrity obligation, including allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying, abuse, Misconduct, child-protection concerns, safeguarding concerns, Match manipulation, Reportable Conduct, corruption, criminal conduct or behaviour that may bring Football into disrepute.

**Integrity Matter:** any matter falling within the scope of Integrity or the Integrity Framework, including allegations or concerns relating to discrimination, harassment, bullying, abuse, safeguarding or child-protection risks, anti-doping, corruption, wagering or gambling, Match manipulation, inappropriate conduct, criminal conduct, reportable conduct, or any behaviour that may bring Football into disrepute.

**Laws of the Game:** the official laws of the game of Association Football and the Futsal Laws of the Game as drafted by the International Football Association Board and adopted by FIFA from time to time.

**Match:** any single game of Football played between two Teams under the Laws of the Game and under the auspices of the Zone, NNSWF or otherwise under NNSWF's direction or control.

**Match Official:** a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, assessor, referee coach, referee mentor, Match commissioner, or any person appointed or authorised by NNSWF, Football Australia or the Zone to officiate, assess or supervise a Football



Match or Match-day activity.

**Member Protection Policies:** all Football Australia and NNSWF child safeguarding, member protection and welfare-related policies, guidelines and procedures as amended or replaced from time to time.

**Minimum Mandatory Suspension:** the minimum period of Suspension that applies automatically to a specified Offence under **Schedule A** and which cannot be reduced except as expressly permitted under these Regulations or the National Disciplinary Regulations.

**Misconduct:** any behaviour, act or omission by a Club, Participant or Club Associate that breaches these Regulations, the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations, the National Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Integrity Framework, the Zone Regulations, or any directive or policy issued by NNSWF or the Zone. Misconduct includes, without limitation, conduct that is improper, unsporting, unsafe, abusive, discriminatory, dishonest, threatening, violent, or otherwise detrimental to the integrity, reputation or proper administration of Football.

**Mistaken Identity** has the same meaning as in the National Disciplinary Regulations.

**National Code of Conduct and Ethics:** the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Ethics as amended or replaced from time to time.

**National Disciplinary Regulations:** the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations as amended or replaced from time to time.

**National Grievance Procedure:** the Football Australia National Grievance Procedure By-Law as amended or replaced from time to time.

**NNSWF: Northern NSW Football Limited** (ABN 80 001 887 467) being the governing body for Football in NSW outside the Football NSW geographic region and who is also a Member Federation of Football Australia.

**Obvious Error** has the same meaning as it does in the National Disciplinary Regulations.

**Participant:** any person who takes part in, is involved in, or is associated with Football activities conducted or sanctioned by a Club, the Zone or NNSWF, whether in a playing, officiating, coaching, administrative, employment, volunteer or support capacity. A Participant includes a Player, Team Official, Match Official, Volunteer, Administrator, Club Associate, Staff and any other person engaged in Football activities.

**Personal Information** has the meaning given in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and includes any information or opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable, whether true or not and whether recorded in a material form or not.

**Player:** any individual registered, or required to be registered, with a Club, the Zone or NNSWF for the purposes of participating in Football competitions, programs, training or Matches.



**Player Red Card:** the sending-off of a Player by the Referee for any offence classified as a sending-off offence under Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.

**Player Yellow Card:** the caution of a Player by the Referee for any offence classified as a cautionable offence under Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.

**Privacy Laws:** the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), the Australian Privacy Principles, any mandatory data breach notification requirements, any applicable state or territory child-safeguarding or privacy legislation, and any other law governing the handling of Personal Information.

**Red Card:** a Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card, as the case may be.

**Regular Season:** the home and away Competition Fixtures conducted as part of a Competition, excluding any Finals Series Matches.

**Reportable Conduct:** conduct that must be notified under child-safeguarding, reportable conduct or mandatory reporting laws to government or oversight agencies (such as the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, Police, or other statutory bodies).

**Routine Disciplinary Matter:** a disciplinary matter ordinarily handled by the Zone in the course of its Competition administration responsibilities, including Yellow Card accumulation, late team sheets, minor Match-day administration issues and low-level behavioural matters.

**Sanction:** any penalty, order or requirement imposed under these Regulations by the Zone, NNSWF or an Independent Panel, including (without limitation) a Suspension (including any Minimum Mandatory Suspension) and any other disciplinary measure set out in **Schedule C**, in Article 25.5 of the FA Constitution, or otherwise expressly permitted under these Regulations. A Sanction takes effect immediately unless otherwise directed.

**Season:** means the period determined by the Zone (or NNSWF, where applicable) during which a Competition is conducted, commencing on the date specified for that Competition and concluding at the end of the applicable Finals Series (if any), or such other date as determined by the Zone or NNSWF.

**Senior Match Official:** the most senior appointed Match Official for a Competition Fixture, usually the Referee.

**Sensitive Information** has the meaning given in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and includes health, genetic or biometric information; disability information, information about an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, philosophical beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity, religious or philosophical beliefs, Working With Children status, information about criminal conduct, allegations, investigations or proceedings; child-related, safeguarding, welfare or reportable conduct information, any information relating to discrimination, harassment, abuse, safeguarding or child-safety matters and any information that could identify a complainant, witness, reporter or vulnerable person in a disciplinary, Integrity or Complaints matter.



**Spectator:** any person who attends, is present at, or views a Match, Competition Fixture or Football activity as an observer, supporter or attendee, whether or not they are a member of a Club, a parent or guardian of a Player, a supporter, guest or casual attendee, and regardless of whether an admission fee is paid, but excluding Match Officials, Players and persons participating in the Match in an official playing, coaching or officiating capacity at that time.

**Staff:** any individual employed, engaged, appointed or contracted by a Club, the Zone or NNSWF in a paid or remunerated capacity, whether full-time, part-time, casual or temporary, including administrative staff, operational staff, development staff, coaching staff, and any person who performs work for remuneration in connection with Football activities.

**Suspensions:** a Sanction imposed by the Zone, NNSWF or an Independent Panel that prohibits a Club, Team, Participant or Spectator from participating in or attending a Match, Venue and/or any Football activity for a specified number of Matches or period of time, including any Minimum Mandatory Suspension that applies under these Regulations or **Schedule A**. A Suspension takes effect immediately unless otherwise directed and must be served in accordance with the requirements set out in these Regulations.

**Team:** Players and/or Team Officials representative of a Club in a specific Zone Competition age group and/or grade.

**Team Official:** any individual engaged or appointed by a Club, whether paid or unpaid, who performs duties for a Team, including but not limited to a coach, assistant coach, team manager, trainer, physiotherapist, medical Staff, technical Staff or any person performing a support role for the Team before, during or after a Match.

**Team Official Red Card:** the dismissal of a Team Official by the Referee in accordance with Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and the Technical Area Guidelines, including any offence recognised as a sending-off offence for Team Officials.

**Team Official Yellow Card:** means the caution of a Team Official by the Referee in accordance with Law 12 of the IFAB Laws of the Game and the Technical Area Guidelines, including any offence recognised as a cautionable offence for Team Officials.

**Technical Area:** the designated area identified in the Laws of the Game adjacent to the Field of Play where Team Officials, substitutes and substituted Players are permitted to sit during a Match, including any marked technical zone, bench area, dugout, or other area determined by the Match Officials as the operational Technical Area for that Match.

**Venue:** the ground, stadium or facility at which a Competition Fixture is staged and includes the Field of Play, Technical Areas, change rooms, spectator areas, entrances, exits and any other area under the control of the Host Club or NNSWF for the purposes of the Competition Fixture.

**Volunteer:** any individual who performs duties or assists a Club, the Zone, NNSWF or Football activities without remuneration, whether formally engaged or informally assisting, including but not limited to duty officers, ground crew, canteen workers and



event helpers.

**Yellow Card:** a caution issued by a Referee to a Player or Team Official accordance with Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.

**Zone Regulations:** the Competition Regulations and any other regulations, by-laws, rules or policies issued by the Zone that govern Clubs, Competitions or Participants.

### PART 1 - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### 3. Delegation of Authority to NNSWF

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- 3.1 The has Zone has formally delegated to NNSWF the authority to administer, manage and determine all Complex Disciplinary Matters, Integrity Matters, Complaints referred to NNSWF, Code of Conduct matters, Match Official abuse matters, and all Appeals and Grievances falling under the national frameworks.
- 3.2 NNSWF may issue notices, charges, correspondence and requests for information; gather, request and review evidence; conduct investigations and interviews; convene and administer Independent Panels; reach Determinations; and impose Sanctions.
- 3.3 NNSWF has the authority to issues directions to any Club to take actions necessary to implement or enforce a NNSWF Determination, including the enforcement of Suspensions and conditions imposed on Participants.
- 3.4 NNSWF performs these functions independently and is not subject to direction by the Zone.
- 3.5 All Determinations of NNSWF or an Independent Panel are final and binding on the Zone and all Clubs unless an Appeal is permitted and made in accordance with an applicable Football Australia Appeals process.

#### 4. Matters Retained by the Zone

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- 4.1 The Zone retains responsibility for administering Routine Disciplinary Matters and for implementing Sanctions arising from such matters.
- 4.2 The Zone remains responsible for maintaining accurate disciplinary records, ensuring Clubs comply with all Zone-issued Sanctions, and liaising with Clubs and Match Officials to ensure Routine Disciplinary Matters are properly administered.
- 4.3 If the Zone is unsure whether it has jurisdiction, the matter will be referred to NNSWF for decision regarding jurisdiction.

#### 5. Referral to NNSWF

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- 5.1 Except where expressly required under these Regulations, all Complaints and conduct matters arising in connection with Zone Competitions are to be received, assessed, administered and resolved by the Zone.



- 5.2 A matter will be referred to NNSWF only where:
- (a) determination by an Independent Panel is required;
  - (b) the matter requires referral to NNSWF or Football Australia constitutes under the Integrity Framework; or
  - (c) there is an actual or reasonably perceived conflict of interest affecting the Zone.
- 5.3 Nothing in this clause prevents the Zone from seeking guidance from NNSWF regarding the classification or handling of a matter prior to any referral.

## 6. Return of Matters to the Zone

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- 6.1 NNSWF may return a matter to the Zone where it determines that the matter is properly characterised as a Routine Disciplinary Matter and is therefore best handled by the Zone.
- 6.2 Clubs must act promptly and implement the required disciplinary or administrative outcome without delay with any Zone issued Sanction or direction after a matter is returned to the Zones jurisdiction.

## 7. Mandatory Reporting by Club to Zone

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- 7.1 Each Club must report to the Zone every Incident that involves, or appears to involve, any of the following categories of conduct:
- (a) conduct more serious than a Minimum Mandatory Sanction;
  - (b) alleged breaches of the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Ethics;
  - (c) escalation or patterns of repeated Misconduct;
  - (d) **serious foul play or violent conduct**, including but not limited to punching, kicking, head-butting, striking, charging, elbowing, violent challenges or any conduct that creates or contributes to risk of serious injury;
  - (e) **Match Official abuse**, whether verbal, physical, intimidating, threatening or discriminatory;
  - (f) **Discriminatory behaviour**, including racial, religious, ethnic, gender-based, disability-related, homophobic or transphobic conduct, language or gestures;
  - (g) **any Integrity Matter** that requires escalation to NNSWF or Football Australia under the Integrity Framework or referral to an Independent Panel;
  - (h) **Spectator Misconduct**, including violence, threats, discriminatory behaviour, pitch invasion, or behaviour that endangers a Participant or other Spectators;
  - (i) **threats, intimidation or abusive conduct**, whether directed at a Participant or any other person associated with a Football activity; or
  - (j) **any conduct likely to bring Football into disrepute**, whether occurring on



or off the Field of Play, in person or online, including behaviour that damages the reputation, integrity or proper administration of Football.

- 7.2 A report under **clause 7.1** must be lodged with the Zone within one (1) Business Day of the Incident, unless exceptional circumstances prevent compliance.
- 7.3 Where the Club reasonably believes that an Integrity Matter exists, the Club must notify the Zone immediately and take reasonable interim steps to protect the safety or welfare of affected persons pending further direction from the Zone or NNSWF.
- 7.4 Failure to comply with this clause constitutes Misconduct and may result in disciplinary action against the Club, its Participants or its Club Associates.
- 7.5 Upon receiving a report under this clause, the Zone will determine whether the matter requires referral to NNSWF for independent administration.
- 7.6 Clubs must provide to the Zone all evidence, documentation, Match footage, witness details, reports, team sheets and any other material reasonably required to enable the Zone to determine jurisdiction and to manage any referral process to NNSWF.
- 7.7 If the Zone determines that a matter requires referral to NNSWF, the Zone will manage the referral process. Clubs must comply with any directions issued by the Zone in connection with referral to NNSWF.

## 8. Evidence Preservation

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- 8.1 Immediately upon becoming aware of an Incident, a Complaint or any matter to which these Regulations applies, a Club must take all reasonable steps to preserve, secure and retain all evidence in its possession or control that may be relevant to the matter. This obligation applies regardless of whether the matter is ultimately dealt with by the Zone or NNSWF.
- 8.2 Without limitation, evidence includes:
  - (a) Match footage;
  - (b) CCTV footage (where lawfully obtained and capable of lawful disclosure);
  - (c) referee and Match Official reports;
  - (d) team sheets and Match documentation;
  - (e) social media posts, messages, digital communications or online content;
  - (f) witness details, statements from witnesses and contact information;
  - (g) photographs, images or documents; and
  - (h) internal Club records, notes or communications relating to the matter.
- 8.3 Clubs must comply with all reasonable directions made by the Zone and/or NNSWF or an Independent Panel concerning the collection, preservation and provision of evidence.

## 9. Confidentiality and Privacy

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### Confidential Information

- 9.1 All information relating to Charges, investigations, Complaints, Integrity Matters, Independent Panel hearings, Sanctions or Appeals is Confidential Information. This includes, without limitation, evidence, statements, interview notes, reports, internal communications, witness identities and hearing outcomes (other than the sanction itself).

### Obligations of Clubs and Participants

- 9.2 Each Club, Participant and Club Associate must keep all Confidential Information strictly confidential and must not:
- (a) publish, release or circulate any Confidential Information, including on social media;
  - (b) identify, or enable the identification of, any complainant, witness or informant;
  - (c) make any public comment regarding an ongoing or completed disciplinary, Integrity or Appeal Matter; or
  - (d) disclose Confidential Information to any third party unless expressly authorised in writing by the Zone or NNSWF.

### Permitted Disclosure by Clubs

- 9.3 A Club may disclose Confidential Information only to the limited extent reasonably necessary to:
- (a) (allow a Participant to respond to a Charge or Complaint (procedural fairness);
  - (b) implement or enforce a Sanction imposed under these Regulations; or
  - (c) comply with a legal obligation (including Reportable Conduct requirements).

For all other purposes, Clubs must seek written approval from NNSWF.

### Protection of Witnesses, Complainants and Informants

- 9.4 Clubs and Participants must not disclose the identity of any complainant, witness, reporter or informant, except where NNSWF determines disclosure is required for procedural fairness or where disclosure is required by law. Breaches of this clause constitute Misconduct.

### Privacy Obligations

- 9.5 Clubs must comply with any applicable provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles when collecting, handling or disclosing Personal Information or Sensitive Information under these Regulations.



### Misconduct

9.6 A breach of this clause constitutes Misconduct and may result in disciplinary action against the Club or its Participants.

### 10. Application of Independent Panel and NNSWF Procedural Regulations

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- 10.1 All disciplinary, Integrity, complaint, misconduct and Appeal matters arising under these Regulations that fall within the jurisdiction of NNSWF, or an Independent Panel must be administered, investigated and determined in accordance with the *Independent Panel and NNSWF Procedural Regulations* (the “**Procedural Regulations**”).
- 10.2 The Procedural Regulations apply to all matters referred to NNSWF for investigation, Determination or Appeal, including Complex Disciplinary Matters, Integrity Matters, Match Official Abuse matters, Complaints and any matter otherwise requiring independent oversight.
- 10.3 Where there is any inconsistency between these Regulations and the Procedural Regulations in respect of the conduct of an investigation, hearing, Determination or Appeal, the Procedural Regulations prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.
- 10.4 All Clubs and Participants are bound by, and must comply with, the Procedural Regulations whenever they apply to a matter involving that Club or Participant.
- 10.5 Nothing in these Regulations restricts the powers of NNSWF or an Independent Panel exercised under the Procedural Regulations, including the power to:
- (a) issue directions;
  - (b) request evidence or information;
  - (c) convene a hearing;
  - (d) impose a Sanction; or
  - (e) make any Determination permitted under the Procedural Regulations.
- 10.6 For clarity, the Procedural Regulations form part of the framework governing the administration of these Regulations, but they may only be amended by NNSWF and do not form part of the Zone’s Competition Regulations.

## PART 2

### ROUTINE DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

### 11. Administrative Infringements

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- 11.1 Administrative infringements include, without limitation:
- (a) failure to submit Match Official reports on time;
  - (b) team sheet errors, including incorrect Player identification;
  - (c) late, incomplete or inaccurate Match documentation;
  - (d) breaches of Match-day operational requirements;



- (e) failures relating to substitution rules; and
  - (f) administrative errors by Club Officials.
- 11.2 Sanctions for administrative infringements are determined by the Zone and may include:
- (a) administrative penalties;
  - (b) monetary fines;
  - (c) warnings or reprimands; and/or
  - (d) amendments to Match results only where permitted by the Competition Regulations.
- 11.3 Minimum administrative Sanctions are set out in **Schedule A – Table 1**.
- 11.4 Administrative infringements do not constitute a Complex Disciplinary Matter unless the conduct also breaches the Football Australia Code of Conduct and Ethics or these Regulations.

### **Yellow Card Accumulation**

- 11.5 Accumulation of Yellow Cards is an administrative matter and is administered by the Zone.
- 11.6 The Zone is responsible for recording, monitoring and enforcing Yellow Card accumulations in accordance with **Schedule A – Table 2**.
- 11.7 Any Suspension arising from the accumulation of Yellow Cards applies automatically once the applicable threshold set out in **Schedule A – Table 2** is reached.
- 11.8 A Suspension imposed under this clause must be served in the Player's or Club Official's next Competition Fixture, unless otherwise expressly directed by the Zone.
- 11.9 Yellow Card accumulation Suspensions are not subject to Appeal, except where expressly permitted under the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations.
- 11.10 A Player or Club Official who participates in a Match while suspended as a result of Yellow Card accumulation commits Misconduct and may be subject to further Sanctions.
- 11.11 Failure by a Club to enforce a Suspension arising from Yellow Card accumulation constitutes Misconduct and may result in additional Sanctions against the Club including those set out in **Annexure A – Table 13 (Club Level Sanctions)**.

## **PART 3**

### **AUTOMATIC MATCH SUSPENSION AND MINIMUM MANDATORY SANCTIONS**

#### **12. Minimum Mandatory Sanctions**

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### Automatic Sanctions Following a Red Card

- 12.1 Where a Player or Team Official is issued with a Red Card during a Match, the applicable Minimum Mandatory Sanction prescribed in **Schedule A – Table 3** applies automatically and takes immediate effect, subject only to any limited rights of review or Appeal expressly permitted under these Regulations.

### Serious Misconduct Where No Red Card Is Issued

- 12.2 Where conduct occurs in connection with a Match or other Football Activity that:
- (a) would ordinarily constitute a Red Card offence; or
  - (b) involves violence, discrimination, abuse, vilification or other serious Misconduct,

but no Red Card is issued during the Match, NNSWF may, irrespective of when the conduct is identified impose the applicable Minimum Mandatory Sanction prescribed in Schedule A – Tables 8 and 9; and refer the matter to an Independent Panel for determination as a Complex Disciplinary Matter regardless of whether the conduct was detected during the Match or is identified after the Match (including through video evidence or reports).

### Effect and Application of Minimum Mandatory Sanctions

- 12.3 The grading and Minimum Mandatory Sanctions for a Red Card are set out in **Schedule A – Table 3**.
- 12.4 Minimum Mandatory Sanctions are automatic, non-negotiable and apply immediately upon the relevant Incident occurring or upon submission of the Match Official's report, whichever occurs first.

### Enforcement Obligations of Clubs

- 12.5 Clubs must enforce all Red Card Minimum Mandatory Sanctions that apply under this **clause 12**, including Automatic Match Suspensions, without waiting for confirmation from the Zone or NNSWF.
- 12.6 On written request a Club must notify the Zone in writing of the steps taken to enforce each Minimum Mandatory Sanction, including confirmation that the suspended Player or Team Official did not participate in any Match or Football activity during the relevant period.

### Limited **Grounds of Appeal**

- 12.7 A Red Card Minimum Mandatory Sanction imposed under this **clause 12** may only be Appealed where:
- (a) the Club asserts Mistaken Identity; or
  - (b) the Club asserts an Obvious Error under the FA National Disciplinary Regulations; or
  - (c) an exceptional circumstance is established to the satisfaction of NNSWF.



### PART 4 SUSPENSIONS

#### 13. Suspensions

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##### **Suspension Takes Immediate Effect**

- 13.1 A Red Card Suspension applies immediately upon the Red Card being issued unless otherwise directed by NNSWF.
- 13.2 A Red Card Suspension is calculated in accordance with **Schedule A – Table 3**.

##### **Requirements Following a Red Card**

- 13.3 Any Club Associate who is shown a Red Card during a Match must:
- (a) leave the Field of Play immediately;
  - (b) not communicate, directly or indirectly, with Players, Team Officials or Match Officials for the remainder of the Match;
  - (c) not enter, nor remain within, 25 metres of the Technical Area for the remainder of the Match; and
  - (d) comply with all restrictions applying to Suspended Club Associates under these Regulations.
- 13.4 Failure to comply with this **clause 13** constitutes Misconduct and will result in the imposition of an increased Sanction in addition to the Mandatory Minimum Suspension for the Red Card.

##### **Restrictions Applying to Suspended Club Associates**

- 13.5 Unless otherwise directed in writing by NNSWF, a Club Associate who is serving a Suspension arising from conduct that occurred in connection with a Match must not act in any capacity for a Club or Team on a Match Day and may attend Competition Fixtures only as a Spectator, or in accordance with **clause 13.4**.

##### **What a Suspended Club Associate May NOT Do**

- 13.6 A Club Associate must not, at any time during a Suspension:
- (a) enter the Field of Play or any Match Official area **at any time from 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time, and until 30 minutes after the Competition Fixture has concluded;**
  - (b) enter any change rooms **at any time from 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time, and until 30 minutes after the Competition Fixture has concluded.**



- (c) be **within 25 metres of the Technical Area** at any time from 30 minutes before kick-off until 30 minutes after the Competition Fixture;
- (d) participate in, or be involved in, warm-ups, training sessions or Match-day preparation on Match Day;
- (e) give instructions to Players, Team Officials or the Team, whether **directly, indirectly or via a third party** (encouragement or barracking as a Spectator is permitted);
- (f) communicate with any Match Official regarding the Match;
- (g) complete, sign or assist with Team Sheets, Match documentation or any Match-day administrative task;
- (h) enter the Technical Area or approach the Senior Match Official for any purpose; or
- (i) act, or hold themselves out, as having any official, coaching, managerial, administrative or representative authority for a Club or Team.

### What a Suspended Club Associate May Do

- 13.7 Unless specifically prohibited by NNSWF or an Independent Panel in the relevant Determination a Suspended Club Associate may:
- (a) act as a **Duty Officer** or **Assistant Referee**, subject to approval of the Senior Match Official;
  - (b) attend **training sessions** that do not form part of Match-day preparation; and/or
  - (c) participate in Zone **Summer Football** Competitions unless the Suspension imposed under these Regulations exceeds four (4) weeks.

### Failure to Comply

- 13.8 A breach of any restriction in this **clause 13** constitutes Misconduct and may result in:
- (a) recommencement or extension of the Suspension from the date the breach occurred;
  - (b) additional Sanctions; and/or
  - (c) referral of the matter to NNSWF for further action and/or Determination or Misconduct.

### Serving a Suspension

- 13.9 A Club Associate must serve a Suspension without delay. A Suspension remains in



effect until it has been served in full, regardless of any change in the Club Associate's status, league, level, Club, or age group.

13.10 Until a Suspension is served in full, a Club Associate must not participate in any Match at any level within NNSWF Competitions, whether as a Player, Coach, Manager or Team Official. This restriction applies to Suspensions that are not fully served within a Competition Season, and which are carried over into future or subsequent Seasons.

13.11 A Suspension arising from a Finals Series that is not served in full during that Finals Series will be carried over to the following Competition Season in which the Club Associate participates.

### **Carry-Over of Suspensions**

13.12 Suspensions not fully served in one Competition Season carry over to the next Competition Season as provided for in the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations.

### **Postponed, Abandoned, or Forfeited Matches**

13.13 If a Match is postponed prior to its commencement, the postponed Match will not be classified as a Match served under a Suspension for the purpose of calculating the number of Matches remaining to be served.

13.14 A Match that is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, will be classified as a Match served under a Suspension unless one or more of the following apply:

- (a) the Club or Team to which the Suspended Club Associate belongs was responsible for the facts or circumstances that resulted in the Abandonment or Forfeit;
- (b) the incident that caused the Abandonment or Forfeit is referred to the Disciplinary Committee; or
- (c) the Match is subsequently re-played.

13.15 For the avoidance of doubt, where an Abandoned or Forfeited Match is rescheduled and replayed, the original Abandoned or Forfeited Match will not be counted as a Match served under the Suspension, and the Club Associate must serve the Suspension in the next available Match.

### **Byes do not count**

13.16 A bye round never counts toward serving a Suspension.

### **Completion of Conditions Attached to a Suspension**

13.17 Where a Suspension is imposed subject to conditions such as the completion of education or behavioural training, the provision of a written apology, or any other corrective requirement, the Club Associate remains Suspended until **all** conditions in the Determination have been completed to the satisfaction of the Zone or NNSWF



(whichever body imposed the Sanction). A Suspension does not expire while any required condition remains outstanding.

### **Additional Suspension for Players or Club Officials with Prior Yellow Card Accumulation Sanctions**

13.18 Where a Player or Club Official has already served a Suspension for accumulation of Yellow Cards during the same Competition Season and subsequently receives a Red Card:

- (a) an additional one (1) Match Suspension will be imposed in addition to the Minimum Mandatory Suspension for the Red Card; and
- (b) the additional Match Suspension under **clause 13.14 (a)** may be applied only once per Competition Season, regardless of the number of Red Cards received after the accumulation Suspension.

13.19 For the avoidance of doubt, any Player or Team Official dismissed from a Match is subject to all applicable suspension rules and restrictions set out in these Regulations, including the restrictions applying to Suspended Club Associates.

13.20 Additional Minimum Mandatory Sanctions for Team Officials are outlined in **Schedule A – Table 4**.

### **Grand Final and Cup Final – Post-Match Presentation Restrictions**

13.21 Any Team Official who the Referee issues a Red Card during a Grand Final must not enter the Field of Play or any presentation area for post-match ceremonies or award presentations.

### **Publication of Suspensions**

13.22 Suspensions imposed in Zone Competitions may be published on the Zone and/or NNSWF website. Publication does not limit any obligation of confidentiality under these Regulations.

## **14. Accumulation of Red Cards**

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14.1 A Player or Club Official who accumulates the number of Red Cards specified in **Schedule A – Table 5 (Accumulation of Red Cards)** during a Competition Season must serve the Minimum Mandatory Match Suspensions set out in that Table, as determined and confirmed by NNSWF.

14.2 A Player or Club Official who is stood down by a Club will not be regarded as having served any part of a Suspension unless and until NNSWF confirms the Suspension in writing.

14.3 Each Club is responsible for recording, monitoring and enforcing all Red Card offences, accumulations and related Suspensions as determined and confirmed in writing by NNSWF in respect of its Players and Club Officials.

14.4 Red Cards received in any Competition, including Cup, League or Finals Series



Fixtures, will count toward the accumulation totals specified in **Schedule A – Table 5**, regardless of the Competition in which the Red Card was issued.

- 14.5 Suspensions arising from the accumulation of Red Cards must be served in the Player's or Club Official's next Competition Match, irrespective of the Competition in which the Red Cards were received.
- 14.6 A Club Official who receives three (3) Red Cards in a Competition Season must be referred to an Independent Panel for consideration of any further Sanction.
- 14.7 Each Club must ensure compliance with all Suspensions confirmed by NNSWF and must not permit any Player or Club Official to participate in a Match while under Suspension.

### PART 5

#### TEAM MISCONDUCT

#### 15. Team Misconduct

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- 15.1 Team Misconduct occurs where a Team, in a single Match:
  - (a) receives five (5) or more cautions issued to Players and/or Team Officials;
  - (b) receives three (3) or more Red Cards issued to Players and/or Team Officials;
  - (c) engages in mass confrontation, collective dissent or group behaviour directed at a Match Official or opposing Team; or
  - (d) engages in collective conduct that brings Football into disrepute, whether on or off the Field of Play.

#### Mandatory Minimum Sanction

- 15.2 A Team found to have committed Team Misconduct will be issued with the mandatory minimum fine prescribed in **Schedule B – Fines**. This Minimum Sanction applies regardless of the circumstances of the offence. The offences and corresponding Sanctions for Team Misconduct are listed in **Schedule A – Table 6**.

#### Escalation

- 15.3 Where a Team commits repeated Team Misconduct during a Competition Season, NNSWF may impose any one or more of the following additional Sanctions:
  - (a) further fines as specified in **Schedule B – Fines**;
  - (b) compulsory education or behavioural training sessions for Players, Team Officials or the Club;
  - (c) probationary conditions, including monitoring requirements or Matchday operational directives; and
  - (d) Competition Sanctions, including point deductions, suspended penalties, venue restrictions or other conditions considered necessary to protect the integrity and orderly administration of Football.



### Club Responsibility

- 15.4 A Club is responsible for the conduct of its Team, Players and Team Officials. A Club may not avoid liability for Team Misconduct on the basis that individual offences were committed by different persons.

### PART 6

### MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE FRAMEWORK

#### 16. Sanctions for Match Official Abuse

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##### Match Official Abuse

- 16.1 In line with NNSWF Match Official Support Policy – Zero Tolerance, the following additional Sanctions will be applied for any incidents of Match Official Abuse:
- (a) Any Player or Team Official found guilty of a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Offence will receive a minimum added 4 Match Suspension, to the Sanction given for the underlying second offence.
  - (b) If a Player or Team Official commits more than two (2) offences of Match Official Abuse, they will be required to appear before an Independent Panel for further sanction.
  - (c) If a Player or Team Official is sanctioned by Suspension for offences against a Match Official, they will not be permitted to attend Club Matches during the Suspension.
  - (d) Any Player, Team or Club Official within a Team who is sanctioned for Match Official Abuse, will cause that team to incur a three (3) Competition points deduction for that Team, wholly suspended for the remainder of the Regular Season.
- 16.2 Should a Team, already subject to the suspended three (3) Competition point deduction, have a Player, Team or Club Official subject to a further sanction for Match Official abuse, the Team will be deducted a further three (3) Competition points in addition to the previously suspended three (3) points, totalling an immediate deduction of six (6) Competition points for this second offence within the Team.
- 16.3 Any subsequent instance of Match Official abuse will incur an immediate Sanction of a further three (3) Competitions points for that Team, and the Club will be required to attend a hearing with an Independent Panel.
- 16.4 A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that participant subsequently leaves the Club).
- 16.5 Any Participant or Spectator found guilty of Match Official abuse towards a Senior Match Official will be suspended for a minimum of thirty (30) days.
- 16.6 Any Participant or Spectator found guilty of abuse toward any Match Official under the age of 18, will be suspended for a minimum of twelve (12) months.
- 16.7 Mandatory Minimum Sanctions will be set out in **Schedule A – Tables 7 and 8**.



- 16.8 An Independent Panel may impose higher Sanctions where aggravating factors exist.
- 16.9 Where Match Official abuse involves Match Officials under the age of 18, discrimination, or physical contact, the Sanction must reflect the seriousness and protective obligations owed to Match Officials.

### PART 7

#### Application of Tables Where No Red Card Issued

- 16.10 Where conduct described in **Schedule A – Table 7** (Violence Against Players, Match Officials or Others) or **Schedule A – Table 8** (Discrimination, Abuse and Vilification) occurs and no Red Card is issued during the Match, the conduct:
- (a) is deemed to constitute serious Misconduct; and
  - (b) must be referred to NNSWF by the Zone for Determination.
- 16.11 Where a Red Card **is** issued for the same conduct, the applicable Red Card sanction under **Schedule A – Table 3** applies automatically, without prejudice to any referral or further Sanction under these Regulations.

#### 17. Sanctions for Violence and Serious Physical Misconduct

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- 17.1 Any act of violence, attempted violence or serious physical misconduct by a Participant or Spectator directed toward a Player, Team Official, Match Official, Spectator or any other person, where the conduct occurs in connection with a Football activity, constitutes Serious Misconduct.
- 17.2 Conduct under **clause 17.1** shall be dealt with as a Complex Disciplinary Matter and will be referred to NNSWF by the Zone. Where no Red Card was issued for the conduct, NNSWF may issue an interim Suspension or Sanction in line with the NNSWF Procedural Regulations. If Participant is found guilty of violence and / or serious physical Misconduct the Sanctions set out in **Schedule A – Table 8** apply.
- 17.3 Where violent conduct results in injury, involves the use of a weapon or object, targets a Match Official or Spectator, or presents a serious risk to safety, higher Sanctions may be imposed in accordance with these Regulations, the Schedule, or applicable NNSWF or Football Australia regulation or policy.

#### 18. Sanctions for Discrimination, Abuse and Vilification

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- 18.1 Any act of discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse by a Participant or Spectator on the basis of race, colour, religion, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other protected attribute constitutes serious Misconduct and an Integrity Matter.
- 18.2 Conduct under **clause 18.1** is prohibited whether it occurs on or off the Field of Play, in person, online, or otherwise in connection with a Football activity.
- 18.3 All allegations of discrimination, abuse or vilification must be referred to the Zone and



may be dealt with under the Integrity Framework, the National Code of Conduct and Ethics and these Regulations. Where no Red Card was issued for the conduct, NNSWF may issue an interim Suspension or Sanction in line with the NNSWF Procedural Regulations. If a Participant or Spectator is found guilty of discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse the Sanctions set out in **Schedule A – Table 8** apply.

### PART 8

#### SPECTATOR AND CLUB RESPONSIBILITY

##### 19. Spectator Misconduct

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19.1 A Club is responsible for the conduct of all Spectators at any Match connected with that Club. This responsibility applies regardless of whether the Spectator is a Member, parent, supporter, casual attendee or any other person present at the venue.

19.2 Spectator Misconduct includes, without limitation any of the following conduct:

- (a) offensive, abusive or discriminatory language or behaviour;
- (b) threats, intimidation or harassment of Participants or other Spectators;
- (c) unauthorised entry to the Field of Play;
- (d) throwing objects or engaging in unsafe behaviour;
- (e) alcohol-related disorder;
- (f) possession, ignition or discharge of flares or fireworks;
- (g) vandalism or damage to facilities; and
- (h) behaviour bringing Football into disrepute.

##### Strict Liability Standard

19.3 Spectator Misconduct is attributed to the Club unless the Club proves both of the following:

- (a) the Club took all reasonable steps before and during the Match to prevent the Misconduct; and
- (b) the Club took immediate and appropriate action in response to the Misconduct once it occurred.

19.4 Sanctions for Spectator Misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- (a) warnings;
- (b) monetary fines;
- (c) Matches played behind closed doors;
- (d) requirements to implement security, crowd-control or Match Official Support Officer measures;



- (e) partial or full venue Suspension;
- (f) point deductions in serious or repeated cases; and/or
- (g) any other Sanction available under these Regulations.

### Minimum Mandatory Sanctions

- 19.5 The minimum sanctions applying to Spectator Misconduct are set out in **Schedule A – Table 9**.
- 19.6 Spectator Misconduct may also constitute Misconduct by a Club Associate or Participant where applicable and may result in Sanctions for the Clubs Associate or Participant under these Regulations or referral to NNSWF.

### 20. Club Responsibility and Sanctions

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- 20.1 Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their Participants in connection with Zone Competitions and Football activities.
- 20.2 A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves the Club).
- 20.3 Where a Club is found responsible for Misconduct, including but not limited to Spectator Misconduct, Team Misconduct, failure to comply with NNSWF or Zone directions, or conduct bringing Football into disrepute, Sanctions may be imposed against the Club in addition to any Sanction imposed on an individual.
- 20.4 Sanctions that may be imposed on a Club include fines, suspended sanctions, probation, venue restrictions, Competition point deductions and any other Sanction permitted under these Regulations, the Schedule, NNSWF or Football Australia frameworks.
- 20.5 A summary of Club-level sanction exposure is set out in **Annexure A – Table 10**.
- 20.6 **Table 10** is indicative only and does not limit the power of the Zone, NNSWF or an Independent Panel to impose any Sanction authorised under these Regulations.

## PART 8

### MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND OBVIOUS ERROR

#### 21. Mistaken Identity

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- 21.1 A Minimum Mandatory Sanction or Automatic Suspension may be withdrawn or amended on the basis of Mistaken Identity, as defined in the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- 21.2 Where Mistaken Identity is established under the Independent Panel and Procedural Regulations, the Sanction will be applied to the correct Participant and removed from the incorrectly identified Participant.



21.3 A Participant is not eligible to participate in any Match until the Zone or NNSWF has confirmed that the correction has been made.

### 22. Obvious Error

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22.1 A Minimum Mandatory Sanction or Automatic Suspension may be withdrawn or amended where an Independent Panel determines that an Obvious Error occurred, as defined in the National Disciplinary Regulations.

22.2 An Obvious Error may only affect:

- (a) whether a Red Card is upheld or rescinded, and
- (b) whether the applicable Minimum Mandatory Suspension applies.

22.3 Until a Determination is made, the Sanction remains in force unless a stay is expressly granted under the Independent Panel and Procedural Regulations.

### 23. Referral to Independent Process

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23.1 All applications, submissions, reviews, evidence requirements, timeframes and fees relating to Mistaken Identity or Obvious Error are governed exclusively by the Independent Panel and Procedural Regulations.

23.2 Nothing in these Regulations affects the authority of NNSWF to refer a matter to an Independent Panel for consideration under the applicable procedural framework.

### 24. Allegations of Misconduct

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24.1 Any allegation of Misconduct by a Club must be submitted in writing to NNSWF by a Club Official within fourteen (14) days of the alleged Incident.

## PART 9

### FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

### 25. Club and Participant Fines

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#### Power to Impose Fines

25.1 The Zone or NNSWF (as applicable to their jurisdiction under these Regulations) may impose financial penalties ("**Fines**") on a Club or Participant where a breach of these Regulations, the National Disciplinary Regulations, the National Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Integrity Framework, or any directive issued by NNSWF is established.

#### Grounds for Fines

25.2 Without limiting **clause 25.1**, a Fine may be imposed in relation to:



- (a) **Spectator Misconduct**, including conduct attributable to the Club under the strict-liability principles set out in **Part 10**;
- (b) **Team Misconduct**, including excessive cautions, multiple dismissals, mass confrontation or collective dissent;
- (c) **Failure to Cooperate**, including any refusal, delay or obstruction of an investigation or information request as described in **Part 13**;
- (d) **Breach of these Regulations** or any directive issued under it, including failure to enforce Suspensions, failure to produce documents, failure to meet reporting obligations or improper dealing with evidence;
- (e) **Breach of Competition Regulations**, where the matter is referred to be dealt with under these Regulations; and
- (f) **any other circumstance** where a Fine is considered appropriate to uphold Integrity, discipline or the orderly administration of Football.

### Determination of Fine Amount

25.3 The amount of any Fine must be proportionate to the seriousness of the conduct, any aggravating or mitigating factors, the level of responsibility of the Club, and whether the conduct posed any risk to safety, Integrity or competition administration. Minimum or recommended Fine levels may be included in **Schedule B**. The applicable Club administrative sanctions are set out in **Schedule A – Table 10**. Any Fine imposed on a Club will be invoiced by NNSWF and once received, paid by NNSWF to the Zone to which the Club is affiliated within thirty (30) Business Days.

### Cumulative Sanctions

25.4 A Fine may be imposed in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other Sanction available under these Regulations, including Suspension, conditions, reprimands, probations or exclusion from venues.

## PART 10

### FINAL PROVISIONS

#### 26. Enforcement by Clubs

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- 26.1 Clubs must comply with and enforce all NNSWF Determinations, Independent Panel decisions and Determinations and Zone-issued Sanctions.
- 26.2 A Club must ensure that any Player, Team Official or Club Associate subject to Suspension does not participate in any Match-day role, Match Day training activity or official capacity contrary to the terms of the Determination.
- 26.3 Clubs must confirm with the Zone when a Suspension has been served.
- 26.4 Failure to properly enforce a Sanction is itself a disciplinary offence and may attract additional Sanction.
- 26.5 A summary of Club-level Sanctions is set out in **Schedule A – Table 10**.



### Failure to Cooperate and Abuse of Process

- 26.6 A Club or Participant must cooperate fully, honestly and promptly with any disciplinary, Integrity, Complaint, investigation or hearing process conducted under these Regulations, the Schedule, or any NNSWF or Football Australia regulation or policy.
- 26.7 Without limitation, a failure to cooperate includes:
- (a) refusing or failing, without reasonable excuse, to provide information, documents or evidence when requested;
  - (b) providing information that is false, misleading or materially incomplete;
  - (c) refusing or failing, without reasonable excuse, to attend an interview or hearing;
  - (d) interfering with, influencing, intimidating or coaching a witness;
  - (e) obstructing, delaying, concealing or destroying evidence;
  - (f) lodging a frivolous, vexatious or knowingly false complaint; or
  - (g) misuse of the complaints or disciplinary process for an improper purpose.
- 26.8 Conduct constituting a failure to cooperate or abuse of process is Misconduct and may be sanctioned independently of, or in addition to, any Sanction imposed for the underlying matter.
- 26.9 Minimum indicative Sanctions for failure to cooperate or abuse of process are set out in **Annexure A – Table 11**.

### 27. Appeals

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- 27.1 Appeals may only be made in accordance with these Regulations and the applicable provisions of the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations or the Football Australia National Grievance Procedure.
- 27.2 No Appeal may be made to the Zone in relation to any NNSWF Determination or Independent Panel decision.
- 27.3 A Sanction remains in force throughout the Appeal process and continues to apply until the Appeals Panel issues its Determination unless NNSWF expressly grants a stay in writing.
- 27.4 An Appeal is not validly lodged unless it is accompanied by payment of the applicable Appeal Fee.
- 27.5 The applicable Appeal Fee is the fee prescribed by Football Australia or NNSWF in its Independent Panel and Procedural Regulations, schedules or directives in force at the time the Appeal is lodged.
- 27.6 The Appeal Fee is payable in the manner and within the timeframe determined by



NNSWF.

27.7 The Zone has no discretion to waive, reduce or vary an Appeal Fee.

## 28. Authority of NNSWF

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### Interpretation and Oversight

28.1 NNSWF is the final authority responsible for:

- (a) interpreting these Regulations and resolving any ambiguity;
- (b) determining the proper classification of any matter as Routine, Complex, Integrity-related or otherwise;
- (c) issuing directions necessary for the consistent and fair application of these Regulations; and
- (d) hearing or facilitating any final Appeals permitted under the National Disciplinary Regulations or National Grievance Procedure.

### Binding Nature

28.2 All Clubs, Participants and Zone Officers are bound by interpretations, directives and decisions issued by NNSWF under **clause 28.1**.

## 29. Amendment Process

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### Amendment by Direction of NNSWF

29.1 These Regulations may be amended by the Zone at any time upon written direction from NNSWF. Such amendments take effect from the date specified by NNSWF.

### Publication of Amendments

29.2 The Zone will publish updated versions of these Regulations promptly upon receiving approval or direction from NNSWF and will notify Clubs as soon as reasonably practicable.



### Schedule A

### MANDATORY MINIMUM SANCTION TABLES

#### 1 MINIMUM SANCTIONS

1.1 Minimum Mandatory Sanctions apply to all Matches, Competitions and Football activities administered or sanctioned by the Zone.

#### 1.2 ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Table 1.

Offence	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
Late Match sheets	Fine
Incorrect team sheet	Fine
Failure to upload footage	Fine (repeat = greater Sanction)
Late payment of fines	Additional Sanction

#### 1.3 YELLOW CARD ACCUMULATION

Table 2.

Accumulation	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
5 Yellow Cards in a Competition Season	Auto
8 Yellow Cards	Auto + 1 Match Suspension
Additional Yellow Cards	+1 Match Suspension per Yellow Card

Note: Two (2) Yellow Cards in a Match that result in a Red Card (R7) are expunged from Yellow Card accumulation.

#### 1.4 RED CARDS

Table 3.

Minimum Mandatory Suspensions			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION



R1	<b>Serious Foul Play</b> (Typically, but not limited to, when the ball is in play)	1. Careless or reckless tackle	Auto
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	Auto Auto + 1 Match Suspension
		3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in. contents for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury.	Auto + 1 Match Suspension
		4. Conduct causing serious injury.	Auto + 2 Match Suspension
R2	<b>Violent Conduct</b> (Typically, but not limited to, when the ball is not in play and /or playing distance)	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate.	Auto + 1 Match Suspension
		2. Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate.	Auto + 1 Match Suspension
		3. Serious and/or premediated violent conduct towards an opponent, Club Associate or cause malicious damage to property.	Auto + 2 Match Suspension
		4. Serious violent conduct that has caused minor bodily harm.	Auto + 3 Match Suspension
		5. Serious violent conduct causing, or with the potential to cause, serious injury.	Auto + 6 Match Suspension
R3	Biting or Spitting	1. Spitting at anyone.	Auto + 6 Match Suspension
		2. Biting or spitting on anyone.	Auto + 8 Match Suspension
R4	Denying the opposing Team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a Goalkeeper within his own penalty area).		Auto
R5	Otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.		Auto
	Using offensive, insulting, or abusive	1. Using language and/or	Auto



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

R6	language and / or gestures.	genstures in frustration.	
		2. Using language and /or gestures directed at anone.	Auto + 1 Match Suspension
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to anyone.	Auto + 2 Match Suspension
		4. Use of discrimatory, homophobilce, racist, religious, ehthnic or sexist lanague and/or getures.	Auto + 6 Match Suspension
R7	Receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match.		Auto
R8	Offences Against Match Officials	1. Unsporting conduct	Auto + 4 Match Suspension
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures.	Auto + 5 Match Suspension
		3. Repeated use of offensive lanaguage and/or gestures.	Auto + 7 Match Suspension
		4. Unwarranted contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official.	Auto + 7* Match Suspension
		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 +10* Match Suspension
		6. Biting, spitting at or on a Match Official	Auto + 12 Month Suspension
		7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property.	Auto + referral to Independent Panel
		8. Violence towards a Match Official who is under the age of 18 or their family or property.	Auto + referral to Independent Panel
		9. Use of offensive lanaguage and/or violence by a Club, Team Official or or Club Official aged 18 or over towards a Match Official	Minimum 12- month Suspension



		under 18 years of age.	
R9	<b>Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)</b>	1. Delaying the restart of play for the opposition.	Auto
		2. Deliberately throwing / kicking an object onto the Field of Play.	Auto
		3. Physical aggressive behaviour towards any person other than a Match Official.	Auto + 2 Match Suspension
		4. Entering the Field of Play to confront a Match Official at half time or full time of a Match.	Auto + 5 Match Suspension
		5. Entering the opposing Technical Area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.	Auto + 2 Match Suspension
		6. Entering the Field of Play to interfere with play or an opposing Player.	Auto + 3 Match Suspension
		7. Entering the Field of Play to confront a Match Official during a Match.	Auto + 10*

\* NNSWF will assess these charges and may also refer them to the Independent Panel to be dealt with under the Code of Conduct and Ethics for additional Sanction.

1.5 In addition to any Minimum Mandatory Suspension imposed on a Player or Team Official for an R8 Offence, the Club associated with that Participant will be subject to the fine prescribed for R8 Offences in **Appendix B (Fines)**.

1.6 In addition to the Minimum Mandatory Suspension applicable to the underlying Red Card Offence, any Player or Team Official who fails to leave the Field of Play or Technical Area immediately following a Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card will receive a Minimum Mandatory 2-Match Suspension, inclusive of the Automatic Match Suspension.

### 1.7 TEAM OFFICIAL SANCTIONS

**Table 4**

Conduct	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
Abusive language towards Match Official	3–6 Match Suspension



Conduct	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
Entering Field of Play to confront Match Official	4–8 Match Suspension
Encouraging violence or Misconduct	12 Months Suspension
Misconduct in Technical Area	1–3 Match Suspension

### 1.8 ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS

**Table 5**

Accumulation of Red Cards			
	Competition	Number of Red Cards	Minimum Mandatory Suspension
Player	Premiership	2	As per initial Suspension + 1 Match Suspension As per initial Suspension
		3	As per initial Suspension + 2 Match Suspension
	Finals Series	2	+ As per initial Suspension 1 Match Suspension
Club Official	Premiership	1	As per initial Suspension
		2	As per initial Suspension + 1 Match Suspension
		3	As per initial Suspension + 1 Match Suspension and referral to Independent Panel
	Finals Series	2	As per initial Suspension + 1 Match Suspension

### 1.9 TEAM MISCONDUCT

**Table 6.**



Offence	Minimum Mandatory Sanction	Notes
5 or more Yellow Cards in one Match	Official warning	Repeat = fine
3 Red Cards in one Match	Fine + possible Competition point deduction	
Mass confrontation	2 Match Suspension for involved Participants + fine for Club	

### 1.10 VIOLENCE AGAINST PLAYERS, MATCH OFFICIALS OR OTHERS BY A PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR

Table 7

Conduct	Minimum Mandatory Suspension	Notes
Attempted assault	<b>2 years</b>	Swinging arm, charge, kick without landing
Violence causing injury	<b>3–6 Months</b>	Depending on severity
Intentional contact with a Match Official (push, bump, grab)	<b>12 months</b>	Non violent
Assault on Spectator	<b>6–12 Months</b>	Depending on severity
Assault involving weapon or object	<b>2 Years</b>	
Assault	<b>5 Years to life</b>	Forces causing pain, injury or fear

### 1.11 DISCRIMINATION, ABUSE & VILIFICATION BY A PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR

Table 8

Conduct	Minimum Suspension	Notes
Discriminatory language (race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc.)	2 Months	
Serious or targeted discrimination	3 Months	
Discriminatory physical aggression	<b>12 Months</b>	If assault → Section 5 also applies
Vilification / hate speech	<b>2 Years</b>	
Abuse of Match Official	<b>30 days</b>	



Conduct	Minimum Suspension	Notes
Abuse of Match Official under the age of 18	12 months	

### 1.12 SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT – Sanctions for Clubs and Spectators

**Table 9**

Conduct	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
Offensive language	Club warning or fine
Threats / intimidation	Fine + requirement for security
Entering Field of Play or Technical Area without permission	Fine + possible venue Sanction
Throwing objects	Fine + probation
Violence	Competition point deduction + suspended Sanctions. Severe cases → venue ban
Flares, fireworks, weapons	Point deduction or Competition Match behind closed doors

### 1.13 CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

**Table 10**

Conduct	Minimum Mandatory Sanction
Failure to enforce Sanctions or comply with NNSWF directives	Fine + Competition points deduction
Playing an ineligible / suspended Player	Competition Match forfeit + fine
Repeated Team Misconduct	Progressive fines → Competition point deductions
Serious breach of these Regulations	Probation, fines, Competition Sanctions
Bringing Football into disrepute	Broad Sanctions including Competition point deductions, probation, venue bans

### 1.14 PROCESS-RELATED SANCTIONS

**Table 11**



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Minimum Mandatory Sanction</b>
Frivolous or vexatious Complaint	Fine or 1–3 Match Suspension
Misuse of Complaints process	Fine or Suspension
False allegation made knowingly	3–6 Month Suspension



### Schedule B

#### FINES

<b>5. Code of Conduct and Ethics</b>			
1.1	Breach of Code of Conduct and Ethics by Player or Team Official	\$500	Per offence
1.2	Breach of Code of Conduct and Ethics / Spectator Code of Behaviour by Player or Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
1.3	Team Misconduct	\$500	Per offence

<b>6. Match Official Abuse</b>			
2.1	First Offence of Match Official Abuse for a Club during a calendar year	\$500	Per offence
2.2	Second Offence of Match Official Abuse for a Club during a calendar year	<b>\$1,000 fine</b>	Per offence
2.3	Third and subsequent offence of Match Official abuse for a Club during a calendar year	<b>\$2,500 fine</b>	Per offence
2.4	Serious offences of Match Official Abuse	<b>\$5,000 fine</b>	Per offence



### Schedule C - Sanction Types

Number	Type of sanction, order or measure	Can be imposed against natural persons	Can be imposed against legal persons (including Clubs)
1	a warning, caution or reprimand	Yes	Yes
2	a suspended sanction <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>	Yes	Yes
3	a fine, bond or costs	Yes	Yes
4	a deduction or loss of competition points or a ban on accruing competition points for a specified period of time or number of Matches or Matches	-	Yes
5	a ban on the registration or transfer of Players for a specified period of time	-	Yes
6	ban on registration of Participant with any Club for a specified period of time	Yes	-
7	replaying of a Match	-	Yes
8	termination of registration or playing contract	Yes	-
9	annulment of registration of a Participant	Yes	Yes
10	suspension from participation in a Match or Match	Yes	Yes
11	exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition, Event, Tournament or Competition	Yes	Yes
12	a ban on playing in a particular stadium, venue, ground or centre	-	Yes
13	full or partial closure of a stadium, venue, ground or centre	-	Yes
14	order to play a Match without Spectators or on neutral territory	-	Yes
15	annulment of the result of any Match or forfeiture of any Match	-	Yes
16	relegation to a lower division	-	Yes
17	the return of an award	Yes	Yes
18	a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench	Yes	-
19	a ban from entering any stadium, venue, ground or centre	Yes	-
20	a ban on taking part in any or all Football related activity	Yes	-
21	the cost to NNSWF and/or Zone of providing security at a stadium, venue, ground or centre for a specified period of time or number of Matches or Matches	-	Yes
22	the successful completion of a referee's course and/or the requirement to officiate a number of Matches	Yes	-



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

<b>23</b>	the compulsory attendance at a course(s) of education or rehabilitation (for example, an anger management course)	Yes	-
<b>24</b>	order to repair, or pay the cost of the repair (or replacement), of property or equipment	Yes	Yes
<b>25</b>	such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as are appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA statutes, Football Australia rules and regulations, NNSWF rules and regulations and Zone rules and regulations	Yes	Yes