



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL



NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES

2019

National Premier Leagues
Rules of Competition

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1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

- 1.1. The National Premier Leagues 2019 Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2019 Premier Competition Regulations.
- 1.2. All definitions as outlined in the Northern NSW Football 2019 Premier Competition Regulations will apply in this document.

2. FEES

2.1. Participation Fee

- (a) The total Participation Fee is approximately \$38529.20, subject to Rule 2.1(c).
- (b) This Fee includes the following:
 - (i) Competition Fee of \$8195.00;
 - (ii) Match Officials Fee of \$11904.00;
 - (iii) Bar TV Coverage of \$1100.00;
 - (iv) Senior Player Registration Fees \$9037.20;
 - (v) Junior Player Registration Fees \$6528.00.
- (c) The final confirmed amount will be based on the exact number of player registrations undertaken by a club throughout the season. This final adjustment, positive or negative, will be reflected in the 4th instalment noted in 2.1(d)(iv).
- (d) The Participation Fee will be paid over four instalments:
 - (i) Instalment 1 of \$9589.80 on Thursday February 28th;
 - (ii) Instalment 2 of \$9589.80 on Thursday April 4th;
 - (iii) Instalment 3 of \$9589.80 on Thursday May 9th
 - (iv) Instalment 4 of approximately \$9589.80 on Thursday 15th August.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1. Each Club will be required to field and maintain the following teams in NPL NNSW Competition:

- (a) Senior Competition:
 - (i) First Grade;
 - (ii) 20 Years;
 - (iii) 18 Years.
- (b) Youth Competition:
 - (i) 16 Years;
 - (ii) 15 Years;
 - (iii) 14 Years;
 - (iv) 13 Years.

3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 11 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 22 rounds.

3.3. The Youth Competition is comprised of 13 Clubs will be played on a home and away basis over 26 rounds.

3.4. Points will be awarded in accordance with the 2019 Premier Competition Regulations.

4. FINAL SERIES

4.1. Senior Semi-Finals

(a) Week 1 Competition Fixtures, semi-finals will be as follows:

- (i) 4th placed team v 1st placed team;
- (ii) 3rd placed team v 2nd placed team.

(b) Week 2 Competition Fixtures semi-finals will be as follows:

- (i) 1st placed team v 4th placed team;
- (ii) 2nd placed team v 3rd placed team.

(c) Semi-final host venue is determined solely on the basis of First Grade ladder position.

(d) 20 Years and 18 Years Semi-finals will take place at the same venue as their equivalent First Grade Competition Fixtures.

(e) The first named team in Competition Fixtures 4.1(a) and 4.1(b) will be the designated home team.

(f) The highest placed team on the competitions points table reserves the right to host a Sunday final series fixture.

(g) The following criteria will be applied until one (1) team can be determined as the winner:

- (i) Highest aggregate of goals scored over the two (2) legs;
- (ii) Highest number of away goals (away goals rule) over the two (2) legs.

(h) If the winning teams for the First Grade grand final cannot be determined by the above criteria, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the second semi-final leg;

- (i) Extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8 for 1st Grade only;

- (ii) For the avoidance of doubt away goal rule does not apply to any goals scored during extra time periods;
 - (iii) If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's;
- (i) If the winning teams for the 20 Years and 18 Years grand final cannot be determined by the above criteria, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the second semi-final leg;
- (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's;
 - (ii) For the avoidance of no extra time will be played in 20 Years and 18 Years Competition Fixtures;

4.2. Senior Grand Final

- (a) The winners of semi-final series fixtures as determined by Rule 4.1 will progress to the grand final.
- (b) NNSWF will determine the venue, kick-off time and playing date of all NPL Grand Finals at its sole discretion.
- (c) If at the conclusion of a Grand Final fixture the scores are level:
 - (i) Extra time shall be played. Two fifteen (15) minute periods will be permitted to find a winner. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply.
 - (ii) If scores are level at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

4.3. Senior Finals Eligibility

- (a) A player who has participated a minimum of 66% of his games in a lower age grade is eligible to participate in the final's series of that lower age grade, provided that he has not been named in the starting line-up of higher age grade in accordance with rule 4.3 (b).
- (b) The highest grade in which a player is named as a starting player, will be considered to be the grade in which that player has participated in for that round.
- (c) Rule 4.3(a) is not applicable whilst all senior teams are actively involved in NPL Finals.
- (d) Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.

4.4. Youth Semi-Finals

- (a) Youth semi-finals will be fixtures as follows:
 - (i) 1st placed team v 4th placed team;
 - (ii) 2nd placed team v 3rd placed team.
- (b) The winner of both semi-final matches will advance to the grand final.
- (c) If either match in Rule 4.3(a) is drawn at full time then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the semi-final:
 - (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's;
 - (ii) For the avoidance of no extra time will be played in NPL Youth semi-finals
- (d) If at the conclusion of a Youth Grand Final fixture the scores are level:
 - (i) Extra time shall be played. Two ten (10) minute periods will be permitted to find a winner. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply.
 - (ii) If scores are level at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.
- (e) NNSWF will determine the venues for all NPL Youth Finals matches.

4.5. Youth Finals Eligibility

- (a) A player who has participated a minimum of 66% of his games in a lower age grade is eligible to participate in the final's series of that lower age grade, provided that he has not been named in the starting line-up of higher age grade in accordance with rule 4.3 (b).
- (b) The highest grade in which a player is named as a starting player, will be considered to be the grade in which that player has participated in for that round.
- (c) Rule 4.5(a) is not applicable whilst all youth teams are actively involved in NPL Finals.
- (d) Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.

5. ADMISSION CHARGES

- 5.1. The maximum admission charges for each competition, including a fee for cars if permitted into the ground, will be determined by NNSWF from time to time and this charge shall be the same at all grounds for the same competition.

5.2. Scheduled Fixture

(a) The following fees are the maximum admission fees which can be charged for senior football Matches:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| (i) Adults | \$10.00; |
| (ii) Concession | \$5.00; |
| (iii) Cars | \$2.00. |

(b) Admission fees may not be charged for youth only matches.

(c) For match days which include both senior and youth fixtures, fees may only be charged from half-time in the final youth match of the day.

5.3. Rescheduled Fixture

(a) Where 1st grade team participates in a rescheduled fixture:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| (i) Adults | \$10.00 |
| (ii) Concession | \$5.00 |
| (iii) Cars | \$2.00 |

(b) Where only lower grades (more than one grade) participate in a rescheduled fixture:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| (i) Adults | \$5.00 |
| (ii) Concession | \$2.00 |
| (iii) Cars | \$1.00 |

(c) No charge will apply where only one lower grade participates.

6. CLUB PASSES

6.1. Each club will be provided the following passes:

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| (a) VIP | 6 |
| (b) Committee | 18 |

7. REGISTRATION FEES

7.1. A player registration fee will be imposed by Northern NSW Football for participation in all Premier Competitions. Senior and Youth fees are determined annually by NNSWF.

7.2. Youth is classified as 18 Years and below as at 31 December each year.

7.3. The NNSWF player registration component fee is refundable to the club up until 30th June each year provided that the de-registering player has not:

- (a) Played in a competition fixture during their time of registration.
- (b) Lodged an insurance claim during their time of registration.
- (c) Been listed on a team sheet for any competition fixture as either a starting player or a substitute/interchange player.

8. AGE RESTRICTIONS

8.1. A player's age is determined by the age they turn during that calendar year.

8.2. 2019 Senior Grades: 1st Grade, 20 Years, 18 Years

- (a) Minimum age to play in 2019 Senior Grades is 15 years.
- (b) All Clubs, are permitted to play a maximum of five overage players (listed on team sheet) in the 20 Years competition with one of the five players being a designated goalkeeper.
 - (i) Rule 8.2 (b) does not apply to Newcastle Jets with the exception of the goal keeper exemption outlined in Rule 7.4 (c)

8.3. 2019 Youth Grades: 16 Years, 15 Years, 14 Years and 13 Years

- (a) Players born 2005 and 2006 are permitted to play a maximum of 2 years above their actual age grade (Subject to final series qualification)
- (b) Players born 2004 and before, are permitted to play into any high age group, including senior grades an unlimited number of times (Subject to final series qualification)

8.4. The Newcastle Jets Academy Players are required to play a minimum of one year above their age grade as defined in Rule 8.1, with the exception of any Player granted exemption under Relative Age Effect.

9. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

9.1. The maximum number of players permitted to be registered per club is:

- (a) Seniors: 1st Grade, 20 Years, 18 Years – 52
- (b) Youth: 13 Years, 14 Years, 15 Years, 16 Years – 64

9.2. Youth Players Playing Up

- (a) Clubs can apply to register a maximum of two (2) Players in the age group above (i.e. a player turning 13 to play in the 14 years) in the 14 years, 15 years and 16 years

competitions. For the avoidance of doubt this is not applicable for the 13 Years competition.

(b) A Player registered to participate in an older age group competition is not permitted in play in their traditional age group competition with the exception of those permitted under rule 9.5. Clubs wishing to register a Player in an older age group competition must seek approval in writing from the NNSWF Technical Director.

(c) Youth grade goalkeepers will be permitted to play up into a higher youth grade competition an unlimited number of times. (Subject to final series qualification regulations).

(d) Players playing up must be noted with an * on the match day team sheet.

9.3. Youth Players Playing Down:

(a) Up to 3 youngest players registered in the 14 Years competition are permitted to play down in the 13 Years competition in the event of player injury which leaves the club with 12 or less players available in that age group. Clubs must seek permission from NNSWF before playing players down.

(b) In the event of an injury to the 13's Goalkeeper clubs may seek permission in writing to play their 14s Goalkeeper down. In the event of an injury this request is to be supported by a Doctors Medical Certificate.

(c) In the event of an injury to a youth Goalkeeper, and subsequent goalkeeper from age group below clubs may seek permission in writing to play the Goalkeeper from the next highest age group up. In the event of an injury this request is to be supported by a Doctors Medical Certificate for both injured goalkeepers.

(d) In the case of a Final Series fixture, clubs wishing to play players below their actual age group down must seek permission in writing from NNSWF. Consideration will only be given in the event of a shortage of players due to injury and any application must be accompanied by a doctor's medical certificate.

(e) Players playing down must be noted with an ** on the match day team sheet.

9.4. Newcastle Jets

(a) The Newcastle Jets are only permitted to register players who are under twenty (20) Years of age with the exception of an overage goalkeeper. (refer 7.6)

(b) The Jets NYL team is permitted to register up to a maximum of three (3) A-League Contracted Players under the age of twenty (20) Years in accordance with rule 7.5, who are not recognised as established A-League players.

- (i) An established A-League player is defined as a player who has started in more than a total of ten (10) A-League fixtures in the previous two (2) A-League seasons collectively.
- (ii) Players contracted on Youth Development Agreements are not classified as A-League Contracted Players.

(c) The Newcastle Jets are permitted to register one (1) goalkeeper over the age of twenty (20) Years who is permitted to participate in the 1st grade competition only.

9.5. Relative Age Effect (RAE)

(a) Clubs may seek dispensation (under Relative Age Effect guidelines) for a maximum of 1 player in each of the 13 Years, 14 Years, 15 Years & 16 Years. Clubs seeking dispensation must apply to NNSWF on the appropriate RAE request form.

(b) The following parameters are required to be met in each age group outlined in table 7.5:

Age Group	Birthdate	Maximum Height	Maximum Weight
13 Years	Between July & December 2005	162cm	50 Kilograms
14 Years	Between July & December 2004	166cm	54 Kilograms
15 Years	Between July & December 2003	170cm	58 Kilograms
16 Years	Between July & December 2002	172cm	62 Kilograms

(c) Players awarded RAE may only play in the competition they have been provided exemption for, and cannot play in their rightful age group without written permission from NNSWF with the exception of matches outlined in Rule 9.5(d).

(d) Clubs may apply for permission for any player granted an RAE exemption, to play in their rightful age group for a maximum of 4 matches, after round 11, for the purposes of assessing the player back within their rightful age group.

- (i) Any player who subsequently plays 5 or more matches in their rightful age group will have their RAE exemption revoked and will no longer be permitted to play in the age group below.

9.6. A player registered in a Senior Grade competition (1st Grade, 20 years & 18 years) is not permitted to participate in a Youth Grade competition.

9.7. Clubs are not permitted to multiple register players participating in community competitions as per the FFA National Registrations Regulations.

9.8. North Coast Football and Football Mid-North Coast may apply to NNSWF to register female players in the 13's, 14's 15's and 16's NPL Youth League.

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

(b) A female player may be registered and is eligible to participate in an age grade up to two years below the player's age.

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

10. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

10.1. Each club is subject to the requirements of the Player Points System as set out by FFA.

(a) For season 2019 each club is allocated 180 PPS points for their 1st Grade squad

(b) Each Club must maintain a minimum player roster of 20 players and a maximum player roster of 23 players at all times throughout the NPL season.

(c) Should any club's PPS roster fall below the minimum 20 players, for any reason, the club will be required to nominate the appropriate number of players from their 20 Years or 18 Years squads to fulfil the requirements outlined in rule 8.1. Overage players will not be considered in this instance.

10.2. Clubs will be required to submit a Draft PPS Document to NNSWF by Friday 8th February 2019 for evaluation by NNSWF.

10.3. Clubs must complete and submit their final PPS form listing all participating players no later than 5:00pm Friday 1st March 2019.

10.4. Clubs will be permitted to make two (2) changes to their original PPS squad during the following competition windows:

(a) Tuesday 30th April until COB Wednesday 2nd May.

(b) Monday 24th June until COB Wednesday 26th June.

10.5. Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of 5 overage players in the 20 years competition.

(a) Overage players must be noted on 20 years roster when submitted to NNSWF by the due deadline.

(b) Overage players, not listed on the Clubs PPS Roster, will not be permitted to play in First Grade matches.

(c) Clubs are permitted to transfer the nominated overage players into the PPS Roster in the windows outlined in Rule 9.4, and/or in response to long term injuries subject to rule 10.6.

(d) Any overage players nominated at the start of the season, not included in the PPS at the time, are ineligible to represent the club in the FFA Cup (from the round of 32) and the FFA NPL Final Series;

10.6. Where a player suffers a long-term injury, a club can submit a request in writing to NNSWF for a replacement player.

(a) A long-term injury is defined as an injury which will prevent the player from playing for a period of four weeks or more.

(b) Long term injury requests must be accompanied by a doctor's medical certificate. A certificate from Physiotherapist will not be accepted.

(c) Any new player sought to replace a player under rule 9.6, may not be on the PPS roster of any other NPL NNSW club at the close of the most recent PPS window as prescribed in rule 9.4.

(d) Any player removed from the PPS due to injury under Rule 9.6 is not permitted to return to the PPS within the minimum four-week period.

(e) Any player returning to the PPS after an injury period under Rule 9.6 may only replace his original injury replacement Player.

(f) Requests for a long-term injury replacement must be made a minimum of 72 hours prior to any Competition fixture.

10.7. Should a player listed within a PPS squad be deregistered outside of the allocated PPS windows, the club will not be able to draft a replacement player into its PPS squad until the PPS window opens, with the exception of rule 9.1(c).

10.8. Changes to a PPS squad will not be permitted in the event of a player(s) suspension.

10.9. Any club found to deliberately mislead or breach the PPS by knowingly providing incorrect information on a player/s history will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by NNSWF.

11. MATCH DURATION

11.1. Each match shall consist of the following:

Competition	Match Duration
First Grade	2 x 45 minute halves
20 Years	2 x 40 minute halves
18 Years	2 x 40 minute halves

16 Years	2 x 40 minute halves
15 Years	2 x 40 minute halves
14 Years	2 x 40 minute halves
13 Years	2 x 40 minute halves

11.2. A minimum of 10 minute intervals will be taken at the end of the half for NPL Competition Fixtures from 13 Years through to 20 years.

11.3. A maximum of 15 minute intervals will be taken at the end of the half for NPL First Grade.

11.4. Additional time for injuries and stoppages in NPL First grade may be added at the discretion of the referee.

12. MATCH BALLS

12.1. Approved match balls must be used in all NPL Competition Fixtures.

12.2. Mitre is the approved match ball for season 2019.

12.3. The following match ball sizes must be used:

(a) NPL 13 Years – Size 4.

(b) NPL 14 Years to First Grade – Size 5

13. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

13.1. Clubs will be permitted to allow a maximum six (6) registered Team Officials and five (5) substitute Players on the Technical Bench during the fixture.

(a) All Team Officials and substitute Players must be named on the official team sheet.

13.2. All registered Team Officials must display the NNSWF Accreditation Pass at all times.

13.3. A Player or Team Official who has been expelled or is serving a suspension is not permitted to occupy a seat in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with Regulation 37 of 2019 Premier Competition Regulations.

14. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

14.1. Substitution

14.2. A team is permitted to list a maximum of 5 substitutes on the Team Sheet, and make a maximum 3 substitutes during a fixture.

(a) The substitution rule will apply for the following competitions:

- (i) First Grade;
- (ii) 20 Years;
- (iii) 18 Years.

14.3. Interchange

14.4. A team is permitted to list a maximum of 5 interchange players on the Team Sheet, and may make an unlimited amount of interchanges during a fixture,

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

- (a) 16 Years.
- (b) 15 Years.
- (c) 14 Years.
- (d) 13 Years.

15. RESHCHEDULED FIXTURES

15.1. Senior Competitions

(a) Senior Competition fixtures postponed due to inclement weather or any other causes will in the first instance be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round, with preference given to matchdays where multiple grades have been postponed.

(b) Should there be no available catch-up rounds, the matches will be replayed the second week after the postponement as follows:

- (i) First Grade to be played Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- (ii) 20 Years to be played Tuesday 8:00pm.
- (iii) 18 Years to be played Tuesday 6:15pm.

(c) Postponed 18 Years fixtures involving FMNC, which are not able to be rescheduled to catch-up rounds, will NOT be rescheduled midweek due to travel distances and logistical constraints.

- (i) These fixtures will be deemed a nil all (0-0) draw.

15.2. Youth Fixtures

(a) Postponed youth league fixtures must be rescheduled and replayed within 3 weeks of the original postponement.

- (i) It is the responsibility of the home club to liaise with the away club to determine reschedule dates for all postponed fixtures.

(ii) Where the home club's ground is not available within the three (3) week period the away club will be afforded the opportunity to host postponed fixture.

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

(c) Postponed youth league fixtures involving FMNC & NCF will not be rescheduled due to travel distances and logistical constraints.

(i) These fixtures will be deemed a nil all (0-0) draw.

15.3. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the home club to determine new fixture dates.

15.4. The availability of players or team officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures.

16. RESULTS PROCEDURE

16.1. Home Clubs are required to enter both half time and full-time results for first grade Competition Fixtures no later than 2 hours after the conclusion of the fixtures on NSW Football's Competition Management System

16.2. In the event that a club is not able to post results as per above due to technical difficulties, the club is required to email all results to NNSWF within the required timeframes.

16.3. Clubs who fail to adhere to the above procedures will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the Premier Competition Regulations.

17. MEDIA & MARKETING

17.1. Clubs will be required to operate Facebook and Twitter accounts that are up to date, relevant and provide information to their members in accordance with NNSWF's Social Media Policy.

17.2. Clubs may be required to erect three (3) NPL Sponsorship Banners on the inside of the playing field perimeter fencing with one (1) banner erected behind each set of goalposts and the remaining banner on or as near as possible to the halfway line on the opposite side of the ground to the grandstand.

(a) Clubs who fail to adhere to this will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the 2019 Premier Competitions Regulations