



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL

2019

Premier Competition Regulations

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1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

1.1. Northern NSW Football's (NNSWF) Premier Competition Regulations (Regulations) apply to the following competitions and/or fixtures conducted by NNSWF:

- (a) National Premier Leagues (Senior and Youth);
- (b) Northern League One;
- (c) Women's Premier League;
- (d) Skill Acquisition Programs;
- (e) Other competitions and special events as identified by NNSWF from time to time.

1.2. These Regulations apply to all Clubs, Players, Teams, Club Officials & Match Officials participating in NNSWF's Premier Competitions.

1.3. These Regulations are supplementary to Football Federation Australia (FFA) Statutes and Regulations including:

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

1.4. These Regulations are supplementary to the following agreements:

- (a) NPL Licence Agreement;
- (b) WPL Participation Agreement;
- (c) Northern League 1 Participation Agreement.

1.5. FFA Statutes also apply to NNSWF's Premier Competitions.

1.6. If there is an inconsistency between these Regulations and any FFA Statutes, Regulations or Policies, then the relevant provisions of the FFA documents will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

1.7. The subsequent Competition Rules address additional regulations, conditions and requirements for specific competitions as outlined in Reg 1.1:

1.8. All fixtures will be conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

1.9. NNSWF 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.

1.10. All fixtures shall be conducted in accordance with the NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations, relevant Competition Rules and FFA Regulations and Statutes.

1.11. NNSWF reserves the right to amend Competition Regulations and rules at any time at its absolute discretion.

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

- (a) **Club** has the same meaning as in the NNSWF Constitution.
- (b) **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;
- (c) **Competition Fixture** means any individual match scheduled by Northern NSW Football for points, or during finals.
- (d) **Competition Management System** means the online Sports TG system for all fixtures and results.
- (e) **FFA National Registration System** means the online Play Football system used for Player registrations.
- (f) **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.
- (g) **Home Team** means the team that is competing on its home ground and/or a team whose name appears first in the Official Fixture list.
- (h) **Away Team** means the second listed team on the Official fixtures Draw.
- (i) **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.
- (j) **Kit Matrix** means the document provided to all Clubs indicating required playing kits for each Competition Fixture.
- (k) **Match(es)** means a matchday for the relevant group of teams. E.g. on Senior NPL match would include first grade, 20 years and 18 years.

(l) **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) Match Assessor,
- (iv) Any other person designated by NNSWF as a Match Official, or
- (v) Any individual who acts as a Match Official in any Match.

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

(n) **NNSWF** means the governing body, Northern New South Wales Football;

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

(p) **Participation Agreement** means the signed agreement between the Club and NNSWF executed either annually, or in the case of National Premier Leagues for a set period.

(q) **Participation Criteria** means the requirements as set out in the relevant Club Licencing Criteria document in the case of National Premier Leagues or the Club Participation Criteria for all other competitions.

(r) **Regular Season** means the home and away fixtured competition.

(s) **Senior Match Official** means the most senior appointed Match Official for a Competition Fixture, usually the Referee.

(t) **Team Official** means Any person employed or volunteering their services as a team coach, team manager or Physio / Sports trainer

(u) **Trial Game** means any fixture sanctioned by NNSWF, but not as a Competition fixture.

(v) **Visa Player** means a Player that is not a citizen or resident of Australia and who requires a valid visa or work permit to enter Australia, whether to play football as an Amateur or Professional

2. PREMIERSHIP

2.1. Notwithstanding NNSWF's right to determine the venue of any Competition Fixture, each team competing in a premiership competition shall play its opponents on a home and away basis and in a sequence as far as is practicable according to the respective home grounds availability

2.2. Premiership Points - Determination of Placing Premiers

(a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

(b) Win - three (3) points

- (c) Draw - one (1) point
- (d) Bye - nil (0) points
- (e) Loss - nil (0) points
- (f) Forfeit (awarded to) - three (3) points
- (g) Abandoned - as per regulation 27

2.3. When all premierships 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 premiers.

(a) 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 two (2) Clubs or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of three (3) or more Clubs

2.4. In the event of the premierships being determined by Regulation 2.4 any prizemoney, where applicable, will be split on an equal basis

3. HOME / HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. Home Clubs and Host Clubs are as defined in Regulation 1.12.

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.
- (ii) In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except in the event of a wash out) for the Competition Fixture the host club team shall (where possible) arrange an alternative venue for that date and time. NNSWF, the Away Team and match official appointments officer must be notified of any change of venue as soon as possible, but not later than forty eight (48) hours before the scheduled Fixture.

(iii) Failure to comply with regulation 3 or part thereof may result in a forfeit to the opposing team and a fine as outlined in section 1 of Appendix A.

(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 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 3.2 shall report any breaches in writing to NNSWF.
- (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 fixture will be determined by NNSWF.

4. MATCH BALLS

4.1. NNSWF shall determine the brand & standard of a match ball to be used in a Competition Fixture.

4.2. The Host Club shall provide three (3) approved brand match balls to the Senior Match Official, not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the fixture.

4.3. Match Ball Sizes

(a) 8-9 Years: Size 3 Ball.

(b) 10-13 Years: Size 4 Ball.

(c) 14 Years+: Size 5 Ball.

5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS PROCESS

5.1. It is the responsibility of the host club to upload all match results into the NNSWF Competition Management System no later than two hours after the conclusion of the last fixture.

5.2. 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 competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au within the required timeframes.

5.3. Clubs who fail to adhere to the above procedures will be subject to a fine as outlined in section 1 of Appendix A.

6. POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

6.1. Notwithstanding any other competition rules, NNSWF may direct a team to play its home Competition Fixture(s) at a ground other than its home ground, providing that reasonable notice is given to the team(s).

7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL

7.1. Registration Periods

(a) The amateur registration period for National Premier Leagues is:
3rd December – 30th June each year.

(b) The amateur registration period for all other NNSWF Premier competitions is:
3rd January – 30th June each year.

7.2. The professional registration period shall be in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations.

7.3. Player Registration Process

(a) For all NNSWF competitions, Players are required to register online via the FFA 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 fixture the player is participating in.

(d) The final date for any Player registrations with NNSWF is 30th 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 FFA 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 FFA or the Member Federation has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;

(c) FFA or the Member Federation is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated his Professional Player Contract for Just Cause.

7.5. Player Eligibility

(a) An eligible amateur Player is one who has registered in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Premier Competitions Regulation 7.3.

(b) An eligible professional Player is one who has registered through the FFA National Registration system in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations and

NNSWF Premier Competitions Regulation 7.3 and has signed an FFA Player Professional Contract which has been lodged with NNSWF.

(c) A Club may seek special dispensation regarding a Player's eligibility by applying in writing to NNSWF.

7.6. Teams Playing Ineligible Players

(a) A team found guilty of playing an Ineligible Player in any fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with that fixture and shall be fined a sum outlined in 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 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 results 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 results 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 results is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, and a score awarded in line with 7.6.a.ii, any goals for the offending team will be upheld in the results and league 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 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 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.

7.7. A Club shall not allow a Player who is under suspension or disqualification from NNSWF or any other FIFA / FFA 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 his team's final series fixtures subject to compliance with the competition rules.

7.9. Team Official Registration Process

- (a) For all NNSWF competitions team Officials are required to register online with the FFA 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 FFA National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Premier Competitions Regulation 6.3.
- (d) The eligibility and qualifications of a team Official shall be prescribed within each Competitions' Participation Criteria and Participation Agreement where applicable.
- (e) NNSWF 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 fulfil the requirements of the team(s) in the competition(s) as per the competition rules, subject to timelines determined by NNSWF.

9. SECURITY AT COMPETITION FIXTURES

- 9.1.** A Host Club is responsible for providing appropriate security measures to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and safety of Match Officials, Players and Team Officials.
- 9.2.** A Host Club is responsible for increased security and/or police measures as directed by NNSWF when deemed appropriate. NNSWF reserves the right to implement a Match Risk Assessment when required.
- 9.3.** When assessing any Misconduct charges that may be brought against a Club. NNSWF may consider the security measures implemented by a Club and any security requirements directed by NNSWF.
- 9.4.** When secure/lockable change rooms are not available for Match Officials, the Host Club must appoint a property steward to ensure the safety of all Match Official property and valuables.
- 9.5.** The Host Club may be held responsible for any missing Match Official property if NNSWF determines appropriate steps have not been taken to ensure the safety of the property.
- 9.6.** Each team is responsible for the safety of their players property and valuables at all times during a fixture.

10. DUTY OFFICERS

- 10.1.** At all Matches, the Home Team must have a minimum of two (2) identifiable Duty Officers present at all times and the away team must have a minimum of one (1) identifiable Club Official present at all times.
- 10.2.** Duty Officers are required to:

- (a) Actively patrol the playing arena
- (b) Escort Match Officials on and off of the playing arena
- (c) Be the point of contact with spectators of the Duty Officer's own Club.

11. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

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

12. PLAYING ARENA & TECHNICAL AREA REQUIREMENTS

12.1. Field of Play

- (a) During any fixture, an Official or Player not involved in the Competition Fixture, or a supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than three (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) Coaching from the boundary line/fence is strictly prohibited.

12.2. Technical Area

- (a) Each bench must be capable of seating 11 persons (6 Team Officials and 5 substitute/interchange Players). All Team Officials must display their Team Official accreditation at all times.
- (b) All persons must remain seated within the prescribed area during the fixture, with the exception of:
 - (i) Players or Team Officials attending to an injured player;
 - (ii) One Team Official who may engage in controlled limited coaching.
- (c) 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 game;
- (d) Should the substitution 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.
- (e) 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 he is called onto the field of play by the referee.

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

(a) In the event of 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.

13. ADMISSION CHARGES & ENTRY TO COMPETITION FIXTUREES

13.1. Club are permitted to charge admission fees, including a fee for cars if permitted into the ground for specific competitions, as outlined in Competition Rules

13.2. With the exception of Clubs that are registered for GST, the distribution of gate receipts from a home competition fixture shall be retained by the home team. Should the gate receipts be insufficient to cover the fixture expenses the home team shall bear the loss.

13.3. Clubs registered for GST are subject to government regulatory requirements.

13.4. At any competition fixture, in which the Player / Team Official is participating in that fixture it shall be compulsory to produce an approved Player or Team Official pass for entry upon request by any Host Club Official.

13.5. In the event of a pass being lost or destroyed, NNSWF is to be advised immediately by the Player's Club and a new pass will be issued, at a cost outlined in section 6 of Appendix A.

14. WINNERS MEDALLIONS

14.1. The winners of both the premierships and grand finals will be awarded a set of 22 gold medallions per grade and the runners-up of the grand finals will be awarded a set of twenty two (22) silver medallions per grade.

14.2. Further medallions may be purchased from NNSWF by a qualifying team, at their own cost.

15. PRIZE MONIES

15.1. Competition prize money (where applicable) will be determined by NNSWF annually.

16. PLAYERS UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

16.1. Club Colours

(a) Clubs must submit full colour images of both their home and alternate playing uniforms as per the requirements of NNSWF Competition Rules by January 31st.

(b) All Clubs will wear their designated kit as noted in the 2019 Kit Matrix.

(c) Clubs will be required to wear their home kit at all Competition Fixtures designated as 'home' Fixtures.

(d) Clubs may vary their kit for a Competition Fixture provided they do not clash with the designated kit outlined in the 2019 Kit Matrix;

(e) The Match Official will decide on the day if any alteration constitutes a clash.

(f) Clubs' alternate kit shall not contain any of the dominant colours (other than trim) of the home kit and shall include alternate shirts, shorts and socks.

(g) Clubs will only be required to wear their alternate kit when they are the designated away team and it is determined that there is a clash with the colours of the home team's kit.

(h) 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 his apparel in accordance with the referee's requirements which may include socks being worn on the outside of the pants.

(i) Should a goalkeeper take the place of a field Player during a fixture, said goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts and socks as the rest of the team.

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

(j) No match Official shall be permitted to officiate in colours likely to be mistaken for those of the field Players from either team.

(k) The ball persons colours shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing teams.

16.2. Equipment

(a) A Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself 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 outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game. A shin guard should provide a reasonable level of cover.

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

(a) Where a Player contravenes this regulation, his or her team may be subject to sanction by the organiser of the competition where the contravention occurred or by FIFA.

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

16.4. 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 country, 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.

16.5. 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).

16.6. 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 B.

16.7. Sponsor branding can only be positioned on the playing strip as identified in Appendix B.

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

- (i) is determined by NNSWF 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's Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Premier 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, 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 at its absolute discretion.

(c) Clubs that seek to acknowledge sponsors that may breach Regulation 16.7 are required to apply to NNSWF for prior written approval to use the proposed sponsor logos on Club uniforms.

17. NNSWF LOGO & NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR LOGO

17.1. Where required, NNSWF will supply participating Clubs with the NNSWF and Naming Rights Sponsor Logo annually.

(a) It is the Clubs' responsibility to ensure that the logos are placed on strips as prescribed by NNSWF.

(b) The costs associated with application are the Clubs' responsibility.

18. EXPENSES

18.1. All expenses incurred participating in a competition shall be the responsibility of the participating teams. NNSWF may at its discretion, make a contribution from NNSWF funds to help offset costs.

19. OFFICIAL FIXTURES DRAW

19.1. All fixtures to be contested in each competition shall be prepared by NNSWF and upon publication, shall be known as the Official Fixtures Draw.

19.2. Competition Fixtures will be scheduled at the same venue on the same day with the lower grade teams competing first.

19.3. Notwithstanding any other competition rules on the same subject matter, NNSWF reserves the right to alter, abandon or amend any fixture after it has been nominated in the Official Fixture Draw.

20. KICK-OFF TIMES

20.1. Scheduled Fixtures

(a) Fixtures should be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official fixtures list.

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

(c) Competition fixtures on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday, may not be scheduled before 8am.

(d) Competition fixtures between Monday and Friday, may not be scheduled before 5:15pm.

(e) Competition fixtures may not be scheduled after 8:30pm.

(f) Notwithstanding the above, NNSWF reserves the right to determine kick-off times for all competition fixtures.

21. LIGHTING

21.1. A fixture may be played on any day, wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of NNSWF and/or the referee.

22. CHANGE OF VENUE / FIXTURE REQUEST BY CLUB

22.1. 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 facility.
- (b) A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by NNSWF no less than 14 days prior to a Competition Fixture. NNSWF shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Rule 22.2.
- (c) Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the discretion of NNSWF.
- (d) Alternate venues will be assessed against the NPL Facility Standard with any approval/dispensation to rest at the discretion of NNSWF.

22.2. Fixture Date/Time Change Requests

- (a) NNSWF will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture 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.
- (b) No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any competition.
- (c) Scheduled NNSWF competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- (d) Exemption from Rule 22.2.c may only be made if;
 - (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and
 - (ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.
 - (iii) The request is in relation to a representative match or tournament.

22.3. Rules 21.1 and 21.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Competition Fixtures.

22.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 22 is subject to NNSWF's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture.

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

22.6. Deferral of Fixtures

- (a) A team may seek permission from NNSWF to have a fixture(s) deferred.

- (b) Such requests for deferrals must be received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture.
- (c) Consideration for a deferral will be given, when 4 or more Players of a team are involved in a representative fixture endorsed by NNSWF where that fixture impacts the scheduled NNSWF Competition Fixture(s).
- (d) 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 21.6. NNSWF reserves the right to determine the validity of a critical incident and the result of any fixture deferred due to a critical incident.
- (e) Should an opposing team be unable to recoup expenses resulting from a deferral, NNSWF shall decide the amount of compensation to be paid by the team granted the deferral.
- (f) NNSWF shall reschedule the date for the playing of a deferred fixture;
- (g) NNSWF may at its discretion declare a deferred fixture cancelled.

23. FORFEITED FIXTURES

- 23.1.** A team that, without just cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play a fixture on the appointed date, time or venue (except for a wash out) shall for each and every offence forfeit that Competition Fixture.
- 23.2.** Any forfeit shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending team.
- 23.3.** The offending team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to the fixture as determined by NNSWF.
- 23.4.** Any points, goals scored or votes acquired by the forfeiting team will be removed from record.
- 23.5.** The offending team shall pay all appropriate Match Official fees, compensation and any another penalty as determined by the NNSWF.
- 23.6.** A team forfeiting on two (2) or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, may be removed from the competition.

24. START TIMES

- 24.1.** With the exception of any delay outside the control of the participating teams, a fixture must start at the scheduled time and may not start more than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time.
- 24.2.** Any team unable or unwilling to begin a fixture after this period shall have forfeited the fixture.

24.3. A team refusing to start to play a fixture shall be fined in accordance with section 12 of Appendix A and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing team.

25. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

25.1. For all 11-a-side competitions a team must field a minimum seven (7) of its eligible Players at all times in a fixture in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

25.2. 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.

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

25.4. In the case of abandoned Competition Fixtures relating to regulation 25.3.

(a) Results and match details will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 7.6.

26. APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS / FIXTURES

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

27. WASHED OUT / HEAT AFFECTED / DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

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

(a) A Host Club Official and a Senior Match Official (if available) are to inspect the ground on the day of the fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day. In addition, the Host Club Official shall advise the visiting team(s) and the appointed match Official(s).

(b) For any Competition Fixture postponed in accordance with the Regulation 35.1(a) clubs are required to:

- (i) Contact the opposing Club Secretary;
- (ii) Contact the NNSWF Referees Appointments Officer;
- (iii) Enter the result as a Washout on NNSWF Competition Management System;
- (iv) Post details of affected Competition Fixture on clubs Facebook and Twitter account tagging NNSWF & opposition club.

27.2. In the event of a ground being declared unfit for play that ground shall not be used for any fixtures during that day notwithstanding that the home and away Club may agree to defer lower grade fixtures in an effort to ensure that the 1st grade fixture proceeds.

27.3. Failure to comply with procedures in regulation 27 may render the home Club liable for Match Officials fees and any other expenses incurred by the away team.

28. ABANDONED FIXTURES

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

28.2. 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 seven (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 security staff and ground marshals, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- (e) one or both of the teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time;

28.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 27.2 NNSWF 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 1st 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 with reference to the Match Official
- (b) If 50% or more of Normal Time of any Competition Fixture, with the exception of 1st 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 with reference to the Match Official
- (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 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; and
- (ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competitions Fixture between the two sides will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless NNSWF determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury or availability); and
- (iii) 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.

28.4. 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.

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

29. FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

29.1. In the event that wet weather or other causes, disrupt a competition to such an extent that it will not be completed within the competition fixtures time frame, NNSWF may cancel all or any premierships/final series fixtures or reschedule first grade fixtures to complete as many fixtures as possible in the premierships and/or the final series.

29.2. Should a competition fixture be declared cancelled by NNSWF, each competing team shall be awarded a draw result. The goal score shall be recorded as 0-0.

29.3. Should a semi-final series fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither team has any control, NNSWF shall reschedule the postponed / abandoned semi-final fixture prior to the next scheduled final series fixture.

29.4. Should continuing inclement weather prevent the rescheduling of either semi-final fixture the highest placed team as determined in regulation 2 of this document will progress to the next final series stage.

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

30. TEAMS WITHDRAWN / REMOVED FROM COMPETITIONS

30.1. 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 championship 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 number of times will remain;
 - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from 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
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, NNSWF may consider forfeited Competition Fixtures as Played for the purposes of Rules 2.1.4.

30.2. Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. red / yellow cards in all fixtures involving of the withdrawn team, will be upheld.

30.3. 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.

30.4. 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 championship 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

30.5. NNSWF 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.

31. TEAM SHEETS

31.1. Each Host Club will be issued with the pre-filled team sheets for each Competition fixture they are hosting.

- (a) The host Club must ensure these team sheets are printed and available for both clubs 30 minutes prior to the time at which they are due for submission to Match Officials.

- 31.2.** 1st Grade Team sheets are to be completed by both clubs a minimum 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- 31.3.** All other Team sheets are to be completed by both clubs a minimum 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- 31.4.** Team sheets shall be completed in black or blue biro using block letters and all relevant details thereon being legible.
- 31.5.** The number on the Player's shirt 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 fixture except on a change of goalkeeper or blood on a playing shirt.
- 31.6.** At the conclusion of the fixture and after the Match Officials have completed the Referees Report, a Team Official from both clubs must sign the team sheet to confirm the details entered for their respective club are correct.
- 31.7.** The home club must email a copy of team sheets to competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au and the opposition Club by 10am on the first business day following the fixture being played.
- (a) Team sheets will only be accepted as a PDF or JPG file.
- 31.8.** The home club must keep all original copies of the team sheet until the completion of the regular season. Clubs will be required to submit all original team sheets together by October 31st.
- 31.9.** Clubs failing to comply with team sheet regulations will be subject to a fine as outlined in section 13 of Appendix A.

32. TEAM SHEETS DISPUTES

- 32.1.** In the event of a dispute regarding the recorded result and the referee refuses to alter the result, the Team Official(s) shall have the dispute noted on the team sheet and sign their name under that note. The Team Official(s) should also report the dispute to their Club who may wish to lodge a protest via email.
- 32.2.** If the team sheet is not signed by a team Official, all information on the team sheet pertaining to infringements, results and goal scorers, is deemed to be correct.
- 32.3.** Team Sheet Disputes will only be investigated by NNSWF in the following circumstances:
- (a) The Match Record and request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with NNSWF 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) Full Team Sheet;
- (ii) Video and/or photographic evidence;

- (iii) Statutory Declaration(s); and;
- (iv) Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of NNSWF.

32.4. Match Records will only be amended if NNSWF is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. There is no appeal against NNSWF's decision.

32.5. For the avoidance of doubt any dispute relating to a suspension will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 37.

32.6. NNSWF may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 33.3.a, at its discretion.

32.7. Should a team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the team sheet, he should note such concern on the back of the team sheet and in addition advise the Match Official.

- (a) The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the fixture and NNSWF shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s) upon receipt of official team sheet.

32.8. 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 item 13.b of Appendix 1.

33. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE

33.1. Substitution

- (a) Each competing team may name five (5) substitute players on the official team sheet and at its discretion use three (3) substitutes during a fixture one of whom may be the goalkeeper.

33.2. Interchange

- (a) Interchange of Players is restricted to competitions 17 years and below, or as determined by NNSWF in line with FFA and FIFA approval.

34. MATCH OFFICIALS

34.1. Each fixture, (including Trial Game fixtures) wherever possible, shall be played under the control of an Official referee and assistant match officials (hereinafter called Match Officials) appointed by the Match Officials appointment board. This includes trial game fixtures.

34.2. 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 fixture.

- (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 23.2.

- (b) failure by the visiting team to accept the appointed person shall result in a forfeit to the non-offending team in line with regulation 23.2.

- 34.3.** The appointed person shall assume the full authority of a Match Official and shall be recognised as such.
- 34.4.** Any club appointed Match Official for an Age Grade Division competition should not be younger than fourteen (14) years of age and should be a minimum of two (2) years older than the age grade he or she is appointed to referee.
- 34.5.** Should the appointed person be eighteen (18) years of age he / she is entitled to referee senior competitions.
- 34.6.** In the event of non-attendance of a Match Official, the team sheet is to be clearly recorded accordingly and the matter reported by the Host Club to NNSWF.
- 34.7.** A Club or Team Official may send in a written report to NNSWF on the performance of a referee during a fixture.
- 34.8.** 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.
- 34.9.** Any postponement or abandonment of a fixture must be noted on the team sheet by the Match Official. When a fixture is forfeited, the team sheet shall be endorsed accordingly by the referee and the relevant team Official(s).
- 34.10.** 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 send-off to NNSWF within 48 hours after the end of the fixture.
- 34.11.** The referee/assistant match officials may be required to attend the respective disciplinary hearing as determined by the Competition Administrator.

35. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

- 35.1.** Match Official's fees for competition and Trial Games are outlined in specific competition Rules.
- 35.2.** NNSWF shall pay the match Officials' fees for all National Premier Leagues, Women's Premier League and Northern League One Grand Finals
- 35.3.** Each participating team in any semi-final fixture shall be invoiced for payment 50% of Match Official fees for that match.

36. PLAYING NAME & CLUB LOGO

- 36.1.** No Club shall be admitted to compete in NNSWF's Premier 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 English and cannot reference a foreign country, political body, ethnicity, race or religion.
- 36.2.** The Club's name must not reference an overseas geographical location or overseas sporting club or association.

37. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

37.1. The Competition Administrator may (in accordance with the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations):

- (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 competition rules or has brought the code into disrepute.

37.2. Appeal Against Disciplinary Sanction Imposed by Competition Administrator

- (a) A Player or a Team Official may appeal a sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator.
- (b) Should a Player or Team Official appeal sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator, they must notify the Competition Administrator in writing within 72 hours of receiving the summary disciplinary notification. Received is taken to include club notification.
- (c) The Disciplinary Chair will, at their sole discretion, review whether the appeal will be heard by:
 - (i) The Disciplinary Chair;
 - (ii) The Disciplinary Committee.
- (d) A fee of \$1000 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing.
- (e) A fee of \$1500 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing with the full Disciplinary Committee.
- (f) All fees are partly, or wholly, refundable at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Chair if the appeal is successful.
- (g) A Mandatory Match Suspension cannot be appealed, other than in accordance with the limited exceptions contained under Regulation 37.10 and 37.11.

37.3. Appeal Against Disciplinary Sanction

- (a) A Player or team Official may appeal a disciplinary sanction imposed under Regulation 37.1 and 37.2 by notifying the Competition Administrator within seven (7) days after the date on which the disciplinary infringement notice was received, using

the application form in accordance with FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations and the following Appeal Processes:

- (i) Appeal to NNSWF.
- (ii) Appeal to FFA.

(b) There is no appeal process for a mandatory match suspension, unless it is a case of mistaken identity.

37.4. 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.

(b) Minimum mandatory suspensions for Red Card offences are outlined in table 37.4:

Table 37.4 – Minimum Mandatory Suspensions

CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Handling the ball		Auto
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Foul		Auto
R1	Serious Foul Play (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is in play)	1. Careless or reckless tackle	Auto
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	Auto
		3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury.	Auto +1
		4. Conduct causing serious injury	Auto +2
R3	Spitting	1. Spitting at an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +4
		2. Spitting on an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +8
R2	Violent Conduct	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		2. Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +2

	(typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is not in play, and/or playing distance)	4. Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm or responsibility for a Melee (violent)	Auto +3
		5. Violent conduct causing serious injury	Auto +4
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	1. Using language and/or gestures in frustration	Auto
		2. Using language and/or gestures directed at another player or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to another Player or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	Auto +4
R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		Auto
R8	Offences against match Officials	1. Unsporting conduct	Auto +1
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +1
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +2
		4. Inappropriate contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official	Auto + Code of Conduct
		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 + Code of Conduct
		6. Spitting on a Match Official	Auto + Code of Conduct
		7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + Code of Conduct
		8. Violence towards Junior Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + Code of Conduct
R9	Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)	1. Delaying the restart of play for the opposition	Auto
		2. Deliberately throwing / kick an object onto the field of play	Auto
		3. Physical aggressive behaviour towards any person other than a match official	Auto +1

		4. Entering the field to confront a match official at half time or full time	Auto + 1
		5. Entering the field to confront a match official during a match	Auto + 2
		6. Entering the field to interfere with play or an opposing player	Auto + 1
		7. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Auto + 1

(c) For the purposes of these Regulations, unless otherwise directed by a 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 rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 30 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 Regulation 38.8 may, unless otherwise directed by the Disciplinary Committee:

- (i) Act as a Duty Officer or 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's Summer Football programs, unless the individual's Suspension is for conduct greater than 4 weeks length of Suspension.

(e) Any violation of Regulation 38.8(b) and 38.8(c) may be deemed Misconduct and subject to further NNSWF Disciplinary sanctions as follows:

- (i) Recommencing 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 table 38.6 during the competition and subsequently receives a suspension from a direct red card in line with regulations 38.4 will be subject to an additional match suspension.

(i) The additional match will only be applied once for any red card suspension

(ii) For the avoidance of doubt, any Player or Team Official sent off during a match is subject to the provisions of Regulation 37.4.c

37.5. 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 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) Any Club or Team to which the Suspended Club Associate belongs was responsible for the facts that led to the Abandonment or Forfeit; or

(ii) An incident leading to the Abandonment or Forfeit of a Match is referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

(iii) 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.

37.6. 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 Table 37.6:

Table 37.6 – Accumulation of Yellow Cards

<u>Person</u>	<u>Competition</u>	<u>Number of Yellow Cards</u>	<u>Mandatory Suspension</u>
Player	Premiership	5	1 match
		6	No further suspension
		7	2 matches
		8	Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals	3	1 match
Club Official	Premiership	3	1 match
		4	No further suspension
		5	2 matches
		6	Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals	2	1 match

(b) Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for a direct red card as outlined in table 38.8 during the competition and subsequently accumulates yellow cards in line with regulations 38.4 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 FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and competition rules.

(d) It is the team manager's responsibility to sign the team sheet at the end of a fixture and to record yellow and red card infringements listed by the referee on the team sheet.

(e) The accumulation of yellow cards in a Final Series is inclusive of all grades participating in the Final Series.

37.7. Accumulation of Red Cards

(a) A player who accumulates the following number of red cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory match suspensions.

Table 37.7 – Accumulation of Red Cards

<u>Person</u>	<u>Competition</u>	<u>Number of Red Cards</u>	<u>Minimum Mandatory Suspension</u>
Player	Premiership	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 2 additional matches
	Finals	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional match
Club Official	Premiership	1	As per initial suspension
		2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional match and mandatory Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional match

(b) 20.2.5. It is the Club's responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.

37.8. Misconduct of a Team

(a) A minimum sanction of a \$200 fine will be imposed on any club for the misconduct of a team which includes, but is not limited to:

- (i) 5 players are cautioned or sent off during one (1) match;
- (ii) 3 players are sent off during one (1) match; or
- (iii) Several players together make threats or show force against a match official.

37.9. Match Official Abuse

(a) 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:

(b) Player:

- (i) 1st Offence will receive a minimum 2 match suspension during which time the Player will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$200 fine.
- (ii) 2nd Offence will receive a minimum 4 match suspension during which time the Player will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$400 fine.
- (iii) If a player commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.

(c) Team or Club Official

- (i) 1st Offence will receive a minimum 2 match suspension during which time the Team Official will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$200 fine.
- (ii) 2nd Offence will receive a minimum 4 match suspension during which time the Team Official will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$400 fine.
- (iii) If a Team or Club Official commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.

(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) Club Disciplinary Action

- (i) A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of match official abuse (in any one age group or division in both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a loss of three Competition points for each offence in that particular age group or division after the second offence.
- (ii) A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of match official abuse (in all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a fine of \$2000.00 for each offence after the second offence.
- (iii) Notwithstanding the above, all Clubs may be subject to further Disciplinary / Code of Conduct action as determined by NNSWF.

37.10. 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 will rectify this error provided the process outlined in Regulation 38.10.b has been complied with.

(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 38.10(b) will not be considered.

37.11. Obvious Error / Serious Missed Incident

(a) For first grade competitions in National Premier Leagues, Women's Premier League and Northern League 1, where any club believes that a referee:

- (i) Has made an obvious error in the dismissal of a player or team official through a red card or;
- (ii) Missed a serious incident which would have resulted in a red card had the referee been in possession of all the facts.

The Club may submit a request for a decision to be reviewed by the Obvious Error Panel.

(b) Clubs seeking to have any decision reviewed for an obvious error must submit via email within 48 hours of the match concluding:

- (i) The name of the player involved in the incident;
- (ii) A summary of the alleged incorrect decision;
- (iii) A summary of the club's opinion on the correct decision;
- (iv) A link to the footage and;
- (v) The time the incident occurred.

(c) Any submission that does not meet the requirements set out in 38.11(b) will not be considered.

(d) Decisions relating to the following offences will not be reviewed by the Obvious Error Panel:

- (i) Yellow cards;
- (ii) Red cards due to a second yellow card;
- (iii) Players not shown a red card for denial of a clear goal scoring opportunity.

(e) Decisions of the obvious error panel are not appealable alone, notwithstanding any rights of appeal a player or team official has throughout the remainder of these regulations.

(f) NNSWF reserves the right to refer any incident within National Premier Leagues, Women's Premier League and Northern League 1 to the Obvious Error Panel in the instance that neither Club involved in the Competition Fixture requests a review.

38. FINANCIAL STATUS

38.1. Competition Member

(a) Should the accounts from NNSWF to a competition member remain unpaid for a period of thirty (30) days after they become due, then the competition member may, after notice of default, be declared an unfinancial competition member.

(b) NNSWF may consider allowing an unfinancial competition member to continue participation in the competitions up to a period not exceeding four (4) competition fixtures.

(c) Unfinancial competition members may not receive any competition points in these four (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 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 competitions if its financial obligations, other than those subject to the normal terms of payment, have not been paid in full by 30 September each year.

(f) NNSWF reserves the right to relegate a Club not fulfilling its financial obligations to a lower competition or refuse its membership.

38.2. Player / Team Official / Match Official

(a) Should the accounts from NNSWF to a Player/Team Official/Match Official remain unpaid for a period of fourteen (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.

39. NATIONAL FLAGS, EMBLEMS AND SLOGANS

39.1. In accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, Clubs are prohibited from displaying foreign or national flags, 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.

39.2. NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to approve or deny a Club's proposed use of logos and/or emblems that breach regulation 39.1 above. One consideration NNSWF will consider is whether the proposal is reflective of a Clubs' heritage or history.

39.3. 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.

39.4. All Clubs must have the prior written approval of NNSWF 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.

39.5. NNSWF may request the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

39.6. 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 FFA Statutes.

39.7. All Clubs are required to display, enforce and abide by NNSWF Premier Competition Terms of Admission. Clubs will be held responsible and liable for any breaches of the above regulations and may be subject to fines as determined by the regulations.

40. SALE OF ALCOHOL

40.1. Clubs seeking to sell or supply alcohol must obtain the applicable liquor license and comply with all legislative requirements. NNSWF will take no responsibility for any Club participating within its Premier Competitions that does not comply with relevant legislation.

40.2. 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.

41. GROUND SIGNAGE AND SPONSOR BRANDING

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

41.2. In addition to regulation 41.1 above, NNSWF reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the display of ground signage at fixtures sanctioned by NNSWF 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's Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Premier Competition;

(d) references a foreign nation or language; and/ or

(e) features a foreign emblem or symbol.

41.3. If requested by NNSWF, 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 at its absolute discretion.

41.4. Clubs that seek to display signage that conflicts with the terms outlined in clause 41.2. are instructed and required to contact NNSWF for prior written approval.

41.5. Clubs are required to remove offending signage at NNSWF's total discretion and direction.

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

42. Ball Persons

42.1. Home Clubs must provide a minimum of four (4) ball persons for every home fixture for all senior grades competing on match day. The ball persons are to be a minimum ten (10) years old and be instructed prior to the fixture of their role and responsibilities. It is recommended that clubs utilise their Youth 13 or 14 years squad as ball persons.

Appendix A – Disciplinary Sanctions			
Item	Offence	Cost	
1. Home Team Responsibilities			
1 a	Failure to arrange an alternative venue	\$500	Per offence
1 b	Deficiency in ground	\$100	Per offence
1 c	Failure to provide approved Match Balls	\$100	Per offence
1 d	Failure to provide approved Match Balls (size)	\$100	Per offence
1 e	Failure to provide Program information to the Home Club (if requested)	\$100	Per offence
1 f	Failure to post results	\$100	Per offence
2. Ineligible Player			
2 a	Playing an ineligible Player	\$200	Per offence
2 b	Use of false ID tag, Team Official	\$200	Per offence
3	Playing for another Club	\$1000	Per offence
4	Player Bringing Code Into Disrepute	\$5000	Per offence
5	Inducement To Bring About A Result	\$2000	Per offence
6	Replacement of Player / Official Pass	\$30	Per pass
7. Player Uniform / Gear Requirements			
7 a	Failure to wear correct alternate strip	\$200	Per team
7 b	Failure to have playing strips approved by NNSWF	\$200	Per strip
7 c	Inappropriate sponsor branding	\$500	Per round
7 d	Failure to affix NNSWF logo	\$30	Per shirt
7 e	Failure to affix Competition Sponsor logo	\$30	Per shirt
7 f	Failure to affix Competition Name Logo/Shield	\$30	Per shirt
8	Failure to obtain consent for kick off time change	\$100	Per offence
9	Forfeited fixtures	\$1000	Per offence
10. Abandoned Fixtures			
10 a	Player	\$1000	Per offence
10 b	Club	\$2000	Per offence
10 c	Other Person	\$500	Per offence
11	Mass Walk Off	\$2000	Per offence

12	Refusing to start a fixture	\$2000	Per offence
13. Team Sheets			
13 a	Failure to lodge a team sheet	\$100	Per offence
13 b	Failure to complete a team sheet	\$100	Per offence
13 c	Illegible team sheet	\$100	Per offence
13 d	Supplying false information on a team sheet	\$1000	Per offence
13 e	Team sheet pad not available	\$100	Per offence
14	Failure to provide replacement Match Official	\$500	Per offence
15	Referee failing to lodge Match Officials Report	\$50	Per offence
16	Three Players, Team or Club Officials found guilty of Match Official abuse across all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth	\$2000	Per offence
17	Ring-ins	\$3000	Per offence
18	Failure to Advise of Washed Out or Doubtful Fixtures	\$100	Per offence
19	Behaviour of Players, Officials and Supporters	\$500	Per offence
20	Display of prohibited flags, slogans or emblems	\$500	Per offence
21	Display of any non-compliant signage anywhere within the ground	\$500	Per offence
22	Failure to erect required competition sponsor banners / feathers	\$500	Per offence
23	Failure to operate a Facebook and Twitter account	\$500	Per offence

Appendix B – Appeal Fees	
Disciplinary Sanctions	
Appeal to NNSWF Competition Administrator ¹	\$500
Code of Conduct Sanction	
Application for a Grievance Hearing NNSWF Competition Administrator ²	\$1000
Grievance Appeal Fee NNSWF ¹	\$1500
Grievance Appeal Fee FFA ¹	\$2000

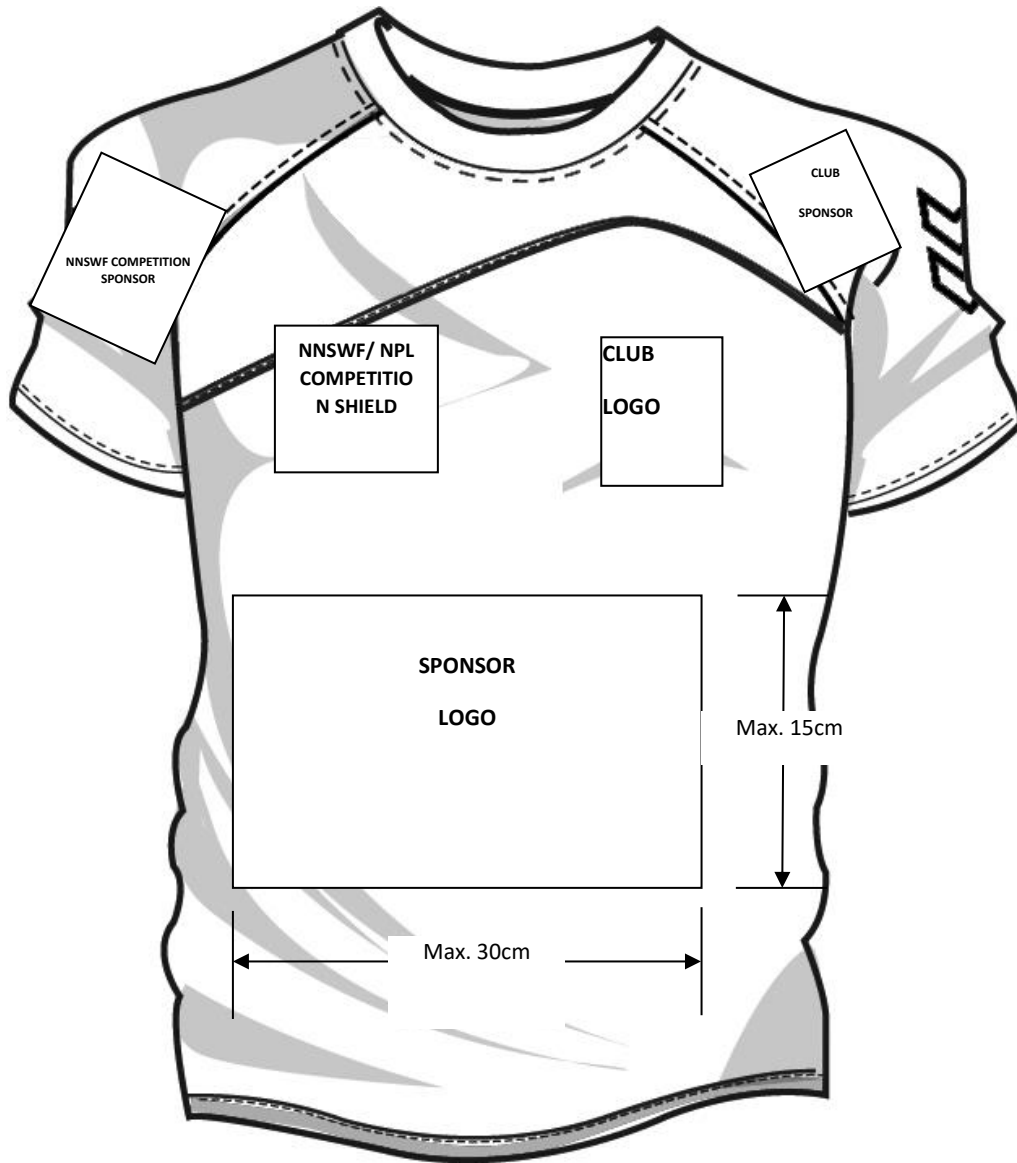
¹ - Refundable if appeal completely successful

² - Non Refundable

Front of Shirt

Any Sponsor Logo that appears on the front of the shirt must not exceed 15cm in height and 30cm in length.

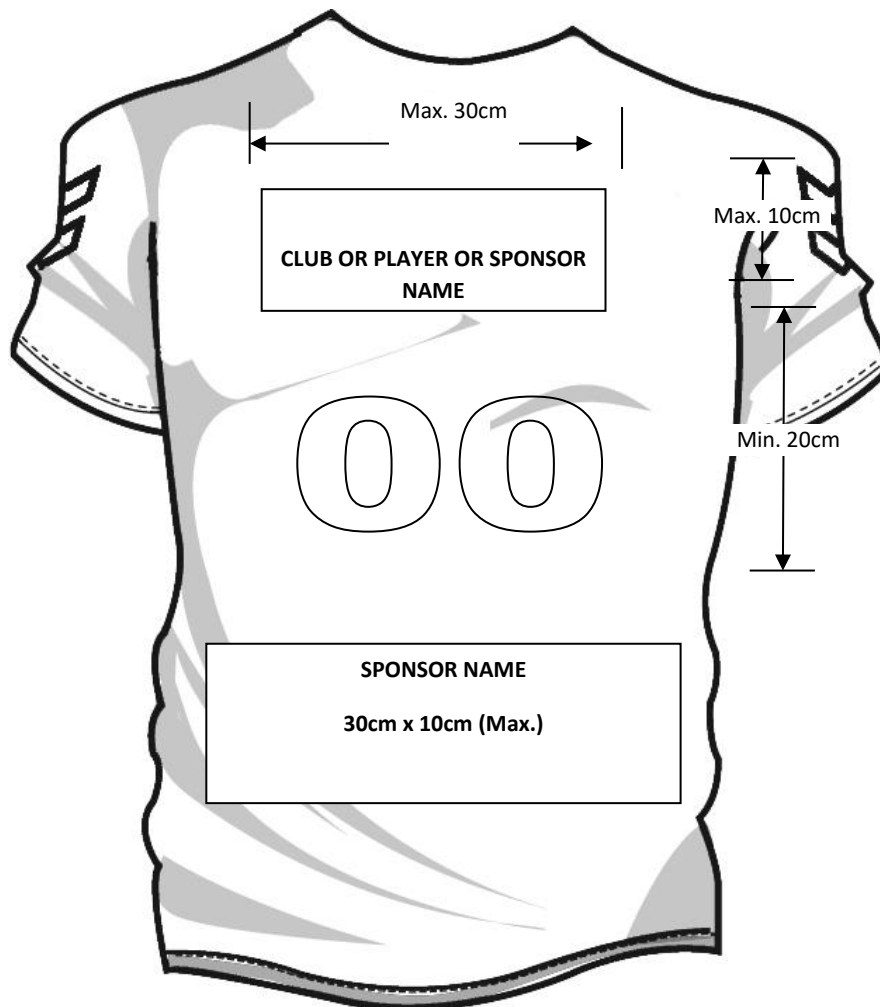
The minimum height of letters on any sponsor message is 6cm.



Back of Shirt

Any Club, Player or sponsor name that appears on the back of the shirt must not exceed 10cm in height and 30cm in length.

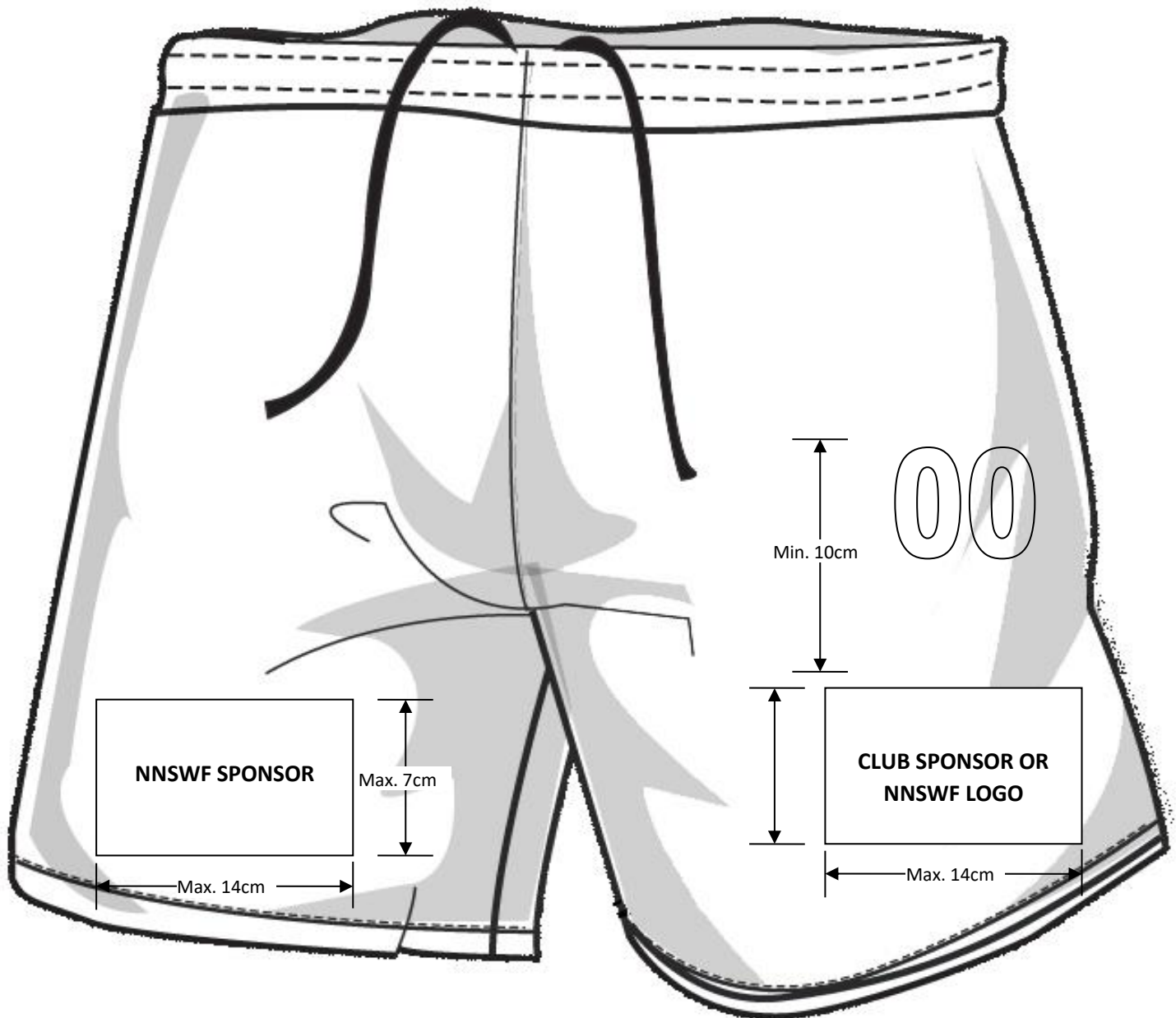
The Player numbers on the back of the shirt must be a minimum of 20cm in height for adults, with an allowance for junior shirts.



Front of Shorts

Any Club Sponsors name or logo that appears on the left leg must not exceed 7cm in height and 14cm in length and cannot exceed an area greater than 98cm².

Any Player numbers that appear on the left leg must be a minimum of 10cm in height.



1. General - The following Terms of Admission shall apply to all spectators attending the event. By attending the event spectators agree to be bound by these Terms of Admission. These Terms of Admission should be read in conjunction with the Venue Conditions of Entry and the 'FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour'.

2. Spectator Behaviour - Patrons agree to comply with the 'FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour', a copy of which is available at www.footballaustralia.com.au.

3. Tickets - In the instance that tickets must be purchased to enter the Venue, patrons must not:

- (a) resell or transfer, or attempt to resell or transfer, the ticket at a premium;
- (b) use the ticket for advertising, promotion or other commercial purposes (including competitions and trade promotions) or to enhance the demand for other goods or services or;
- (c) package the ticket with other goods and services.

Tickets must be carried at all times and produced upon request.

4. Refund/Exchange - Tickets will not be refunded or exchanged except in accordance with the "Code of Practice for the Ticketing of Live Entertainment in Australia" (the Code), available at www.liveperformance.com.au. Except as provided by the Code, to the extent permitted by law, NNSWF is not liable to any person for any loss (including consequential loss) arising out of, or in connection with, the cancellation or rescheduling of the event.

5. Refusal of Entry/Eviction - NNSWF, Club and Venue Management reserve the right to refuse entry or evict any person:

- (a) who breaches these Terms of Admission or who NNSWF, Club or Venue Management has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to breach these Terms of Admission;
- (b) who jeopardises safety or security at the Venue or event;
- (c) deemed to be intoxicated or disorderly or under the influence of drugs;
- (d) attempting to bring in, or found in possession of, Prohibited or Restricted Items;
- (e) engaging in a Prohibited or Restricted Activity;
- (f) failing to comply with lawful directions by FFA, NNSWF, Club, Venue Management, Police, or Contract Security staff;
- (g) previously issued with a Court Banning Notice, FFA Banning Notice, NNSWF Banning Notice or Club Banning Notice that still applies; or
- (h) not authorised to be in the Venue e.g. without a valid entry ticket or accreditation.

6. Security Screening - All persons and their possessions will be subject to searches before entering the Venue and may be subject to search upon exit. Persons who refuse to participate may be denied entry or asked to leave the Venue. Any person having entered the Venue and found to be in possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Item, shall have such item confiscated and may be evicted from the Venue.

7. Surveillance - For the safety and security of patrons and staff, surveillance cameras may be operating in and around the Venue. All persons entering the Venue consent to having their image recorded and held for a specified period. In the event of an incident, any footage obtained may be

provided to FFA, NNSWF, Club, Police and the Contract Security Provider and used to prosecute or support the implementation of a ban on a person, or for other law enforcement purposes.

8. Prohibited/Restricted Items - The following is a non-exhaustive list of items that are prohibited by law and are not permitted to enter the Venue:

- (a) illegal substances including controlled, dangerous or illicit drugs; and
- (b) flares, fireworks, weapons, explosives and smoke bombs

The following items are considered restricted and are not permitted to enter the Venue:

- (a) alcoholic beverages;
- (b) glass bottles, cans and breakable containers;
- (c) missiles of any description;
- (d) recreational equipment such as skateboards, rollerblades and bicycles;
- (e) animals and pets (other than Assistance Dogs);
- (f) laser pointers;
- (g) non-accredited photographic equipment and recording devices for commercial purposes including audio and video equipment;
- (h) confetti or shredded paper;
- (i) flag poles composed of materials other than plastic or wood or greater than 1.5 metres in length;
- (j) signs, banners, flags and clothing displaying offensive, political, National, racial or unauthorised commercial material;
- (k) eskies, coolers and iceboxes too large to be stored under a seat; and
- (l) any item determined by FFA, NNSWF, Club or Venue Management that may cause injury, public nuisance or which is deemed dangerous to fellow spectators.

9. Prohibited/Restricted Activities - The following is a non-exhaustive list of activities that are restricted or prohibited within the Venue and participation in such activities may result in eviction:

- (a) smoking (other than in a designated area);
- (b) displaying commercial or offensive signage;
- (c) throwing objects of any description;
- (d) striking or igniting flares, fireworks, explosives and or smoke bombs;
- (e) the use of offensive or racist chanting or language;
- (f) storage of equipment or standing/sitting in aisles or walkways; and
- (g) unauthorised soliciting and customer surveying.

10. Responsible Consumption of Alcohol - All persons entering the Venue are advised that:

- (a) they are entering a licensed premises;
- (b) persons identified as being intoxicated will not be permitted to enter;
- (c) persons found in possession of liquor will not be permitted to enter;
- (d) persons identified as being intoxicated will be removed from the premises
- (e) it is an offence for minors to purchase and consume liquor;
- (f) it is an offence to purchase liquor for (or supply liquor to) minors;
- (g) persons supplying liquor to minors will be reported to the Police; and
- (h) penalties and fines may apply under the relevant State's Liquor legislation.

11. Liability - Viewing of football and associated activities can be dangerous and may result in injury. Patrons viewing such activities do so at their own risk. Patrons bring personal items into the Venue at their own risk and assume all risk of any damage or loss (including property damage, personal

injury, economic and consequential loss) however it arises at the Venue. The hirer and the Venue will not be held responsible for any damage to, loss or theft of a patron's personal property.

12. Pass-Outs - Pass-outs are issued at the discretion of the Venue. Should pass-outs be granted, patrons wishing to re-enter the Venue must present both the pass-out and a valid ticket to regain entry. Persons will be subject to searches upon Venue re-entry.

13. Photographs and Broadcasts - Photographs taken within the Venue may be used only for private non-commercial purposes. Making or distributing of broadcasts, commentary, news reports or statistics (by any means including by mobile phone or other wireless device) is prohibited.

14. Image Release - Patrons grant NNSWF and Clubs the non-exclusive right to use their image and likeness in any form or medium, as part of any broadcast or recording of the match and for any other commercial purposes (including in advertising and promotional materials).

15. General Conditions - The following general conditions apply:

- (a) smoking is prohibited other than in designated smoking areas;
- (b) umbrellas are permitted into the Venue but, for the comfort of others, must not be raised in the seating areas;
- (c) for safety reasons, strollers and prams may not be permitted in the seating bowl;
- (d) unauthorised persons are prohibited from entering the field of play. Prosecutions may be pursued for unauthorised access to either the Venue or field of play;
- (e) patrons are responsible for their own conduct whilst in the Venue and must pay for the cost of repair of any damage caused to the Venue as a result of their conduct; and
- (f) drums may be permitted into the Venue on the condition that the owner is identified and receives prior approval from the Venue and Event Manager.

16. Breach of Terms of Admission - If Patrons breach these Terms of Admission they may be:

- (a) denied access to, or evicted from, the Venue;
- (b) banned from attending future matches at the discretion of FFA, NNSWF, Club or Venue Management;
- (c) asked for identification by NNSWF (including its authorised contractors, agents or employees), Club, Police, Venue Management or Contract Security staff.

Information collected from or on Patrons who breach the Terms of Admission may be shared between FFA, NNSWF, Club, Venue Management, Contract Security staff and or Police. This information may be used to prosecute or support the implementation of a ban on the person, or for other law enforcement purposes, and Patrons consent to such use. All information collected will be handled in accordance with FFA's Privacy Policy, which is available at www.footbballaustralia.com.au.

17. Privacy Waiver - Patrons grant consent for their name, address, date of birth and photograph to be provided to NNSWF, by the relevant State or Federal Police or Contract Security staff, in the event that they are evicted from or arrested within the Venue and for State or Federal Police to disclose to NNSWF the nature and result of any action or criminal proceeding initiated by Police as a consequence of their eviction from or arrest within the Venue.

18. Privacy Notification - All persons entering the Venue are advised, in accordance with applicable State and Commonwealth Privacy legislation, that the relevant State or Federal Police may provide NNSWF with the name, address, date of birth and photograph of any person detained or arrested by Police at the Venue and the nature of any action or criminal proceeding initiated by Police as a consequence so that NNSWF can consider, and if deemed necessary, implement a ban on the person from attending future football matches at NNSWF sanctioned Venues.