



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL

NEWCASTLE
HERALD



2019

Women's Premier League
Rules of Competition

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1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

1.1. The Women's Premier League 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 \$16811.20, subject to Rule 2.1(c).

(b) This Fee includes the following:

- (i) Competition Fee of \$2860.00;
- (ii) Match Officials Fee of \$5648.00;
- (iii) Women's State Cup Entry of \$300.00;
- (iv) Senior Player Registration Fees \$5174.40;
- (v) Junior Player Registration Fees \$2828.80.

(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 \$4202.80 on Thursday February 28th;
- (ii) Instalment 2 of \$4202.80 on Thursday April 4th;
- (iii) Instalment 3 of \$4202.80 on Thursday May 9th
- (iv) Instalment 4 of approximately \$4202.80 on Thursday 15th August.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

3.1. Each Club will be required to field and maintain the following teams in Women's Premier League Competition:

(a) Senior Competition:

- (i) First Grade;
- (ii) Reserves;

(b) Youth Competition:

- (i) 17 Years;
- (ii) 14 Years;

3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 11 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 21 rounds.

3.3. The Youth Competition is comprised of 11 Clubs will be played on a home and away basis over 22 rounds.

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

4. FINAL SERIES

4.1. 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) Reserves, 17 Years and 14 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 Reserves, 17 years & 14 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 Reserves, 17 years & 14 years Competition Fixtures;

4.2. 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 Women's Premier League 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. Finals Eligibility

- (a) A player who has participated a minimum of 66% of her 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 Women's Premier League 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. No admission may be charged for Women's Premier League Competition Fixtures.

6. REGISTRATION FEES

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. Youth is classified as 18 Years and below as at 31 December each year.
- 6.3. 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.

7. AGE RESTRICTIONS

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

7.2. 2019 Senior Grades: 1st Grade and Reserves

- (a) Minimum age to play in 2019 Senior Grades is 15 years.
- (b) All Clubs are required to have a minimum of 7 players born after to 1999 on their Reserve roster.

7.3. 2019 Youth Grades: 17 Years and 14 Years

- (a) Players must be turning 14, 15 or 16 years of age in 2019 to be eligible for the 17 years competition.
- (b) Players must be turning 13 or 14 years of age in 2019 to be eligible for the 14 years competition.
- (c) Players born 2004 and before, are permitted to play into any higher age group, including senior grades an unlimited number of times (Subject to final series qualification)

8. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

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

- (a) Seniors: 1st Grade, Reserves – 32.
- (b) Youth: 17 Years, 14 Years, – 32.

8.2. Relative Age Effect (RAE)

- (a) Clubs may seek dispensation (under Relative Age Effect guidelines) for a maximum of 1 player in the 14 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 below:

Age Group	Birthdate	Maximum Height
14 Years	Between July & December 2004	162cm

(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 8.2(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.

8.3. A player registered in a Senior Grade competition (1st Grade & Reserves) is not permitted to participate in a Youth Grade competition.

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

8.5. Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of 3 W-League Players.

(a) W-League Players are defined as players who have registered with a W-League Club in the preceding season.

9. MATCH DURATION

9.1. Each match shall consist of the following:

Competition	Match Duration
First Grade	2 x 45 minute halves
Reserves	2 x 40 minute halves
17 Years	2 x 40 minute halves
14 Years	2 x 35 minute halves

9.2. A minimum of 10 minute intervals will be taken at the end of the half for Women's Premier League Competition Fixtures from 14 Years through to Reserves.

9.3. A maximum of 15 minute intervals will be taken at the end of the half for Women's Premier League First Grade.

9.4. Additional time for injuries and stoppages in Women's Premier League First grade may be added at the discretion of the referee.

10. MATCH BALLS

10.1. Approved match balls must be used in all Women's Premier League Competition Fixtures.

10.2. Umbro is the approved match ball for season 2019.

10.3. The following match ball sizes must be used:

(a) 14 Years to First Grade – Size 5

11. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

11.1. 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.

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

11.3. A Player of 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.

12. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

12.1. Substitution

12.2. 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) Reserves;

12.3. Interchange

12.4. 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,

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

(a) 17 Years

(b) 14 Years.

13. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

13.1. 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 7:30pm;
- (ii) Reserves to be played Wednesday at 6:00pm;
- (iii) 17 Years to be played Thursday 7:30pm;
- (iv) 14 Years to be played Tuesday 6:00pm.

(c) Postponed fixtures involving Football Mid North Coast must be rescheduled on a weekend date. In this instance, NNSWF will liaise with both Clubs to determine a suitable weekend date.

(d) 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 finals series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule fixture.

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

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

14. RESULTS PROCEDURE

14.1. 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

14.2. 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.

14.3. 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.

15. MEDIA & MARKETING

15.1. 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.

15.2. Clubs are required to erect two Newcastle Herald feather at a prominent position as spectators enter the venue.

15.3. Clubs who fail to adhere to Rule 16 will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the 2019 Premier Competitions Regulations.