



**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES**



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2020

National Premier Leagues Northern NSW

Competition Rules



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1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

- 1.1. The National Premier Leagues Northern NSW 2020 Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2020 Premier Competition Regulations.
- 1.2. All definitions as outlined in the Northern NSW Football 2020 Premier Competition Regulations will apply in this document.

2. FEES

2.1. Participation Fee

(a) The total Participation Fee is approximately \$38475.20, subject to Rule 2.1(c).

(b) This Fee includes the following:

(i)	Competition Fee	\$8195.00
(ii)	Contribution to Match Official Appointments Officer	\$770.00
(iii)	FFA Cup Entry Fee	\$825.00
(iv)	BarTV Coverage	\$1100.00
(v)	Disciplinary Levy	\$440.00
(vi)	Match Official Fees	\$9037.20
(vii)	Senior Player Registration Fees	\$11580.00
(viii)	Junior Player Registration Fees	\$9037.20
(ix)	Premier Youth Cup Entry Fees (2 Teams)	TBC

(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	\$9618.80	Sunday 15 th March
(ii)	Instalment 2	\$9618.80	Wednesday 15 th April
(iii)	Instalment 3	\$9618.80	Monday 15 th June
(iv)	Instalment 4	\$9618.80	Monday 31 st August

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

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

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



- 3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 10 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 18 rounds.
- 3.3. The Youth Competition is comprised of 12 Clubs will be played on a home and away basis over 22 rounds.
- 3.4. Points will be awarded in accordance with the 2020 Premier Competition Regulations.

4. FINAL SERIES

- 4.1. The senior Finals Series will be conducted under the following format:

(a) Finals Series Fixtures:

Week 1				
QF	Qualifying Final	2 nd Placed Team	v	3 rd Placed Team
EF	Elimination Final	4 th Placed Team	v	5 th Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
B1	Bye	1 st Placed Team	v	Bye
Week 2				
MSF1	Major Semi-Final	1 st Placed Team	v	Winner QF
MSF2	Minor Semi-Final	Loser QF	v	Winner EF
		Loser Eliminated		
Week 3				
PF	Preliminary Final	Loser MSF1	v	Winner MSF2
		Loser Eliminated		
B2	Bye	Winner MSF1	v	Bye
Week 4				
GF	Grand Final	Winner MSF1	v	Winner PF

(b) Weeks 1-3 finals host Venue is determined solely on the basis of first named 1st Grade Teams as outlined in Rule 4.1 (a).

(c) Reserve Grade and 18 Years Finals Series Matches will take place at the same Venue as their equivalent 1st Grade Competition Fixtures.

(d) The highest placed Team on the Official Points Table (1st Grade) reserves the right to nominate their preferred playing day.

(e) NNSWF reserves the right to schedule NPL Finals Series at their sole discretion, taking into account, all other Matches in Premier Competitions.

(f) If winners for the 1st Grade Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1 (a), Weeks 1-3 cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i) Extra time of 2 equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8 for;
- (ii) If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.



(g) If winners for the Reserve Grade and 18 Years Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1(a), Weeks 1-3 cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i)** Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner;
- (ii)** For the avoidance of doubt no extra time will be played in Reserve Grade and 18 Years Competition Fixtures for these Matches.

(h) For all Senior Grand Final matches outlined in 4.1 (a) Week 4, if a winner cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i)** For 1st Grade and Reserve Grade, extra time periods will be 2 equal periods of 15 minutes;
- (ii)** For 18 Years, extra time periods will be 2 equal periods of 10 minutes;
- (iii)** If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.

(i) NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all NPL Grand Finals at its sole discretion.

4.2. Senior Finals Eligibility

(a) A Player who has participated a minimum of 66% of his games in a lower age grade is eligible to participate in the Final's Series of that lower age grade, provided that he has not been named in the starting line-up of higher age grade in accordance with rule 4.3 (b):

- (i)** Any Player that does not play 66% of his games in a single Team will be eligible to play finals for the Team in which he has played the majority of his games;
- (ii)** For the avoidance of doubt, percentage is calculated based on the number of individual games the Player has played, and not the number of games the Team has participated in.

(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) Subject to any suspension and/or age eligibility a Player does not need to have played 66% of games in a higher age grade to qualify for finals in a higher grade.

(d) Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of Goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.



4.3. Youth Finals Series:

(a) Youth semi-finals will be fixtures as follows:

Week 1 Semi-Final				
(i)	SF1	1 st Placed Team	V	4 th Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
(ii)	SF2	2 nd Placed Team	V	3 rd Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		

(b) The winner of both semi-final matches will advance to the Grand Final.

(c) If either match in Rule 4.3 (a) is drawn at full-time then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the semi-final:

- (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's;
- (ii) For the avoidance of no extra time will be played in NPL Youth Semi-Finals.

(d) If at the conclusion of a Youth Grand Final Match the scores are level:

- (i) Extra time shall be played, 2 equal periods of 10 minutes will be permitted to find a winner. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply;
- (ii) If scores are level at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

(e) NNSWF will determine the Venues for all NPL Youth Finals Series Matches.

4.4. Youth Finals Eligibility

(a) A Player who has participated a minimum of 66% of his games in a lower age grade is eligible to participate in the final's series of that lower age grade:

- (i) Any Player that does not play 66% of his games in a single Team will be eligible to play finals for the Team in which he has played the majority of his games;
- (ii) For the avoidance of doubt percentage is calculated based on the number of individual games the Player has played, and not the number of games the Team has participated in.

(b) 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. Scheduled Fixture

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

(i)	Adults	\$10.00
(ii)	Concession	\$5.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$2.00



(b) Admission fees may only be charged for senior football:

- (i)** In the event of youth Matches occurring on the same day at the same Venue as senior Matches, admission fees may only apply from half time in the youth Match immediately preceding the first senior match.

5.2. Rescheduled Fixture

(a) Where a 1st Grade Team participates in a rescheduled fixture:

(i)	Adults	\$10.00
(ii)	Concession	\$5.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$2.00

(b) Where only lower grades (more than 1 grade) participate in a rescheduled fixture:

(i)	Adults	\$5.00
(ii)	Concession	\$2.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$1.00

(c) No charge will apply where only 1 lower grade participates.

6. CLUB PASSES

6.1. Each Club will be provided the following passes:

(a)	VIP	6
(b)	Committee	18
(c)	Players	60

6.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Club Associates adhere to the required terms and conditions noted on their specific pass.

7. AGE RESTRICTIONS

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

7.2. 2020 Senior Grades

(a) Minimum age to play in Senior Grades is 15 years.

(b) All Clubs, are required to register and maintain a minimum of 7 Players born 2000 or later in their Reserve Grade Roster:

- (i)** Players required in Rule 7.1 (b) cannot be listed on the Club's 18 Years Roster with the exception of Rule 7.1 (b) (ii);
- (ii)** A maximum of 2 Players from the Clubs Player Points System Roster may be included in the required Players of 7.1 (b).

7.3. 2020 Youth Grades:

(a) Players born 2006 and 2007 are permitted to play a maximum of 2 years above their actual age grade (subject to final series qualification)



(b) Players born 2005 and before, are permitted to play into any high age group, including senior grades an unlimited number of times (subject to final series qualification)

7.4. A Player registered in a Senior Grade competition Roster (1st Grade, Reserve Grade and 18 Years) is not permitted to participate in a Youth Grade competition.

8. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

8.1. The maximum number of Players permitted to be registered per Club is:

Seniors	1 st Grade, Reserve Grade and 18 Years	60
Youth	13 Years, 14 Years, 15 Years and 16 Years	64

8.2. Youth Players Playing Down:

(a) Clubs may nominate 3 Players exclusive of a goalkeeper, upon submission of their Roster from their 14 Years squad, to be available to play down into 13 Years fixtures in the event of Player injury or unavailability which leaves the Club with 12 or less Players available:

- (i)** Nominated Players must not be involved in any Talent Support Program;
- (ii)** Nominated Players may only be used to increase the match day squad size to a maximum of 13 Players;
- (iii)** Players will be approved at the sole discretion of NNSWF.

(b) Clubs must seek permission from NNSWF before playing Players down.

(c) In the event of an injury to the 13's Goalkeeper Clubs may seek permission in writing to play their 14s Goalkeeper down. In the event of an injury or unavailability this request is to be supported by evidence from the Club.

(d) In the event of an injury to a youth Goalkeeper, and the subsequent goalkeeper from the age group below Clubs must seek permission in writing to play the Goalkeeper from the next highest age group up. In the event of an injury or unavailability this request is to be supported by evidence from the Club.

(e) In the case of a Final Series Competition Fixture, Clubs wishing to play Players below their actual age group down must seek permission in writing from NNSWF.

(f) Players playing down must be noted with an ** on the Team sheet.

8.3. Relative Age Effect (RAE)

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

(b) Applications may be made for Players who are of an appropriate technical standard but at a substantial height and or weight difference from their peer age group.

(c) All Players applying for RAE exemption must attend a physical session with NNSWF Player Development staff before being approved.



(d) RAE exemptions will not be provided more than 12 weeks from the start of the relevant season.

(e) RAE exemptions will be monitored and assessed every 12 weeks.

(f) All applications must include details of the Players height and weight and playing history for the past 3 years.

(g) RAE exemptions are at the sole discretion of the NNSWF Technical Director and are not appealable.

8.4. North Coast Football and Football Mid North Coast may apply to NNSWF to register female Players in the 13's, 14's 15's and 16's NPL Youth.

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

(b) A female Player may be registered and is eligible to participate in an age group up to 2 years below the Player's age.

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

9. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

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

(a) For season 2020 each Club is allocated 180 PPS points for their 1st Grade squad.

(b) Each Club must maintain a minimum PPS Roster of 20 Players and a maximum PPS Roster of 23 Players at all times throughout the NPL season.

(c) Should any Club's PPS Roster fall below the minimum 20 Players, for any reason, the Club will be required to nominate the appropriate number of Players from their Reserve Grade or 18 Years squads to fulfil the requirements outlined in Rule 9.1 (b) Overage Players will not be considered in this instance.

9.2. Clubs will be required to submit PPS documents to NNSWF as below:

Draft Roster	Monday 17 th February
Final Roster	Tuesday 10 th March (5:00pm)

9.3. Clubs will be permitted to make a maximum of 2 changes to their original PPS squad during the following windows:

1 st Window	Tuesday 5 th May → Thursday 7 th May (5:00pm)
2 nd Window	Tuesday 23 rd June → Thursday 25 th June (5:00pm)

9.4. Reserve Grade

(a) Players born 1999 or earlier on the Reserve Grade Roster, will not be permitted to play 1st Grade Matches unless they have been added to the PPS in line with Rule 9.3.

(b) Clubs are permitted to transfer overage Players into the PPS Roster in the windows outlined in Rule 9.3, and/or in response to long term injuries subject to Rule 9.5.



(c) Any Overage Players at the start of the season, not included in the PPS at the time, are ineligible to represent the Club in the FFA Cup (from the round of 32) and the FFA NPL Final Series.

9.5. Where a Player suffers a long-term injury, a Club can submit a request in writing to NNSWF for a replacement Player.

(a) A long-term injury is defined as an injury which will prevent the Player from playing for a period of 6 weeks or more.

(b) Long term injury requests must be accompanied by a Doctor's Medical Certificate:

(i) A certificate from physiotherapist will not be accepted.

(c) Any new Player sought to replace a Player under Rule 9.5, may not be on the PPS Roster of any other NPL NNSW Club at the close of the most recent PPS window as prescribed in Rule 9.3.

(d) Any Player removed from the PPS due to injury under Rule 9.5 is not permitted to return to the PPS within the minimum 6-week period.

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

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

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

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

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

10. MATCH DURATION

10.1. Each Competition Fixture shall consist of the following:

Competition	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
1st Grade	2 x 45-minute halves	15 minutes (max.)
Reserve Grade	2 x 45-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
18 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
16 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
15 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
14 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
13 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)

10.2. Additional time for injuries and stoppages in NPL 1st Grade may be added at the discretion of the referee.



11. MATCH BALLS

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

11.2. Mitre is the approved match ball for season 2020.

11.3. The following match ball sizes must be used:

(a) NPL 13 Years → Size 4.

(b) NPL 14 Years to 1st Grade → Size 5.

12. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

12.1. Clubs will be permitted to allow a maximum 6 registered Team Officials and 5 substitute Players in the Technical Area during the fixture:

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

12.2. All registered Team Officials must display their NNSWF Accreditation Pass at all times.

12.3. A Player of Team Official who has been expelled or is serving a suspension is not permitted to be in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with Regulation 37 of 2020 Premier Competition Regulations.

13. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

13.1. Substitution NPL 1st Grade

(a) A Team is permitted to list a maximum of 5 substitutes on the Official Team Sheet and make a maximum 3 substitutes during a Competition Fixture.

13.2. Substitution NPL Reserve Grade and 18 Years

(a) A Team is permitted to list a maximum of 5 substitutes on the Official Team Sheet and make a maximum 5 substitutes during a Competition Fixture.

13.3. Interchange

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

(b) A Team will be permitted to utilise 2 interchange periods in each half:

- (i) A Team's interchange periods can be used at the discretion of that Team;
- (ii) During these periods, Teams may make an unlimited number of interchanges;
- (iii) Teams may make an unlimited number of interchanges during the half-time period;
- (iv) In the event of an injury causing a Player to be unable to continue in the match, an Injury Interchange may be permitted, for the injured Player only, at the discretion of the Match Official which will not count toward the two interchange periods outline in Rule 13.4 (b).



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

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

14. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

14.1. 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)** 1st Grade to be played Wednesday at 7:00pm;
 - (ii)** Reserve Grade to be played Tuesday 8:00pm;
 - (iii)** 18 Years to be played Tuesday 6:15pm.

14.2. Youth Fixtures

- (a)** Postponed youth league fixtures must be rescheduled and replayed within 3 weeks of the original postponement:
 - (i)** It is the responsibility of the home Club to liaise with the away Club to determine reschedule dates for all postponed fixtures;
 - (ii)** Where the home Club's ground is not available within the 3-week period the away Club will be afforded the opportunity to host postponed fixture.
- (b)** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to consider all available options to ensure that as many fixtures as possible are played during a period of inclement weather or postponements, and where any fixture may have a bearing on a final's series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule fixture.
- (c)** Postponed youth league fixtures involving Football Mid North Coast and North Coast Football will not be rescheduled due to travel distances and logistical constraints:
 - (i)** These fixtures will be deemed a nil all (0-0) draw.

14.3. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the Home Club to determine new Competition Fixture dates.

14.4. The availability of Players or Team Officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures.



15. PRIZE MONEY

15.1. Prize money shall be awarded in accordance with the following table:

1 st Grade Premiers	\$10 000.00
1 st Grade Second Place	\$2 000.00
1 st Grade Grand Final Winners	\$4 000.00
1 st Grade Grand Finalists	\$2 000.00
Club Championship	\$2 000.00
Club of the Year	\$1 000.00 First Touch Voucher

16. MEDIA & MARKETING

16.1. 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.

16.2. Clubs may be required to erect 3 NPL sponsorship banners on the inside of the playing field perimeter fencing with 1 banner erected behind each set of goalposts and the remaining banner on or as near as possible to the halfway line on the opposite side of the ground to the grandstand.

(a) Clubs who fail to adhere to this will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the 2020 Premier Competitions Regulations.



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

APPENDIX A – AWARDS

TBC



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES



APPENDIX B – FINALS SERIES ELIGIBILITY EXAMPLES

TBC