



Frequently Asked Questions – SUSPENSION OF FOOTBALL to 14 April 2020.

Last updated 11.00am, Tuesday 24 March 2020

PLEASE NOTE: this document is a guide surrounding the suspension of football. Any specific advice surrounding COVID-19 should be sought from official sources such as [here](#).

When is football suspended to?

Grassroots/community football has been suspended until 14 April 2020. This is a temporary measure and we are committed to resuming as soon as is possible.

Given the suspension of football to 14 April 2020, can I continue to play football?

No. All NNSWF matches have been suspended until at least 14 April 2020. This is subject to change.

Can I continue to train?

No. All NNSWF football activities have been suspended until 14 April 2020. This is subject to change.

Am I insured if a group of us play/train/have a kick around and are injured?

No. Not during the suspension of football.

What if I have further questions surrounding insurance?

Further information surrounding what your insurance covers can be found at [here](#).

What information has been used to form the decision to suspend football?

NNSWF is taking its advice from the Federal Government which is communicating directly with Football Federation Australia. This is an unprecedented public health situation and we will follow the instructions of the Federal Government.

What is meant by all football activities?

- All matches which includes and not limited to, competition, trial and friendly matches.
- Football training of any type.
- Unnecessary large meetings[^] (including committee, coaches, volunteers and match official meetings).
- Face-to-face Professional Development activities.
- Events, Tournament and Programs, and
- Modified and/or social football.
- Clubs and NNSWF should understand and apply the [Federal Government guidelines](#)



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Who do I contact if I have further questions?

Players should direct their questions to their club in the first instance.

Do clubs need to shut down their academy/development programs/extra training programs/links to external providers?

Players and coaches are not permitted to take part in any football activity. This includes academy programs or extra training sessions that are directly or indirectly associated with your club.

Clubs need to be vigilant in ensuring this does not take place. Your club (and the players and coaches) are affiliated to the FFA and you are required to follow the instruction that all football activities are suspended. Clubs, players and coaches will not be insured. The concerns around a lack of insurance has now escalated from an exposure against injury to someone contracting COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

What about the academy/extra training/one-on-one sessions some players inevitably take part in?

We discourage any face-to-face football activity. Participation in any unsanctioned football activity is done so at your own risk. This includes non-sanctioned futsal, modified football and small-sided football.

If players make individual decisions to attend one-on-one coaching or take part in external exercise activities, they need to seriously consider the ramifications for ANY player contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on the wider football community.

We hope to return to football activities in the near future. When we do return to playing and training, if a player or coach contracts COVID-19 (Coronavirus) a series of containments and shutdowns will take place that could jeopardise on-going competition matches.

What does this mean for our competition structure?

As it stands, we have only lost a small number of games in our Premier Leagues. NNSWF is working through this at the moment. It is fair to assume that football will be different in 2020 to any other year as our country is in the middle of an unprecedented public health situation.

Further advice will be provided as soon as it is available.

What does this mean for competitions that haven't started?

NNSWF is taking this time to work with Zones surrounding options. It is fair to assume that football will be different in 2020 to any other year as our country is in the middle of an unprecedented public health situation.

It is important to note, grassroots/community football are yet experience and disruption to their fixtures.



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What does this mean for the draws that have been released?

Some draws will need to be rescheduled. The suspension has caused a disruption and changes will be advised in due course.

Every draw for a 2020 NNSWF competition that has been sent out and published on the NNSWF Competition Management System (CMS) remain intact. This decision will be confirmed closer to the start date and clearly communicated to all clubs as per the usual communication avenues.

Is there a cut-off date where the season would be called off?

No. The situation is highly unpredictable and as we have seen to this time, it can change at any time. We will continue to take advice from the Federal Government and FFA and then make decisions on that direction.

Will we still have semi-finals/grand finals?

It is fair to assume that football will be different in 2020 to any other year as our country is in the middle of an unprecedented public health situation. It is the intention of NNSWF to re-shape the competition structure, so all players get to play as many football games as possible.

What about gala days

Gala days are not permitted under the Federal Government guidelines as they constitute as non-essential mass gathering and are suspended under the ban on all football activities.

What happens to my registration fees?

At this stage the suspension of football takes into account a minimal disruption that we will work to make up throughout the season as best as possible. We are delaying the start of the season, not cancelling. We are working through some details around real cost savings that occur due to the fact some games will be lost. We will make a final decision on registration fees when we know the full extent of the disruption and it will be based on the broad principle of trying to ensure that all clubs, NNSWF and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future. We need to make sure that when football and life in Australia returns to normal that we have a sport, clubs and an infrastructure that will allow us all to continue to play.

What happens if I deregister?

A player is entitled to de-register but they need to understand the following. Any player that de-registers at this point can only re-register at the discretion of NNSWF. Also, a final decision around any refund of fees for people who de-register will be made when the clubs and NNSWF know the full extent of the disruption and it will be based on the broad principle of trying to ensure that all clubs, NNSWF and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future.

What is happening to the fees that go to NNSWF and FFA?

As you can imagine the initial concerns of the FFA and NNSWF have centred on the initial response to the actual issue. At this point in time NNSWF and FFA have not given any indication in relation to this. This will form part of the broader discussion around the viability of all levels of the game moving forward. We need to make sure that when football and life in Australia returns to normal that we have a sport, clubs and an infrastructure that will allow us all to continue to play.



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Does this suspension include programs related to the Talented Player Pathway (TPP) and Premier and SAP representative teams?

Yes. The ban is on all football activities except the A-League and W-League, which are being played behind closed doors.

Are NNSWF and Zones open for business as per usual?

Yes. However, our staff could be working from home during different periods.

Can I still register to play?

Absolutely. Many clubs will welcome more players! To find your local club visit [here](#).

If I haven't registered yet, can I still use my Active Kids Voucher?

Yes. Claim your voucher here <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

I've already registered, what happens to the Active Kids voucher I used to pay registration?

More information will be coming soon.

I have registered for a Coach or Match Official Education Course / Workshop, will they be rescheduled?

We will endeavour to re-schedule coach education events once the suspension of football activities is over. Registered participants have been contacted and NNSWF is working through the schedule to outline new dates and methods of delivery.

Important links:

[Commonwealth Department of Health – COVID-19 Health Alert](#)

[NSW Health – COVID-19 Information](#)

[NSW Health-COVID-19 frequently asked questions](#)



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