

HERALD



NEWCASTLE
HERALD



2020

Women's Premier League

Competition Rules

Updated due to Suspension of Football

Revised July 8th



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1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

- 1.1. The Women's Premier League 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 \$13460.84 subject to Rule 2.1 (c).

(b) This Fee includes the following:

(i)	Competition Fee	\$2145.00
(ii)	Contribution to Match Official Appointments Officer	\$440.00
(iii)	Disciplinary Levy	\$440.00
(iv)	Match Officials Fee	\$3225.60
(v)	Senior Player Registration Fees	\$4822.40
(vi)	Junior Player Registration Fees	\$2387.84

(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	\$4411.90	15/03/2020
(ii)	Instalment 2	\$3016.32	30/07/2020
(iii)	Instalment 3	\$3016.31	15/08/2020
(iv)	Instalment 4	3016.31*	15/09/2020

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) 1st Grade;
 - (ii) Reserve Grade.
- (b) Youth Competition:
- (i) 17 Years;
 - (ii) 14 Years.

3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 8 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 14 rounds.

3.3. The Youth Competition is comprised of 8 Clubs will be played on a home and away basis over 14 rounds.

3.4. Points will be awarded in accordance with the 2020 Premier Competition Regulations.



3.5. Should football be suspended as result of COVID or other circumstances NNSWF will consult with the WPL Committee to determine the future of the competition in 2020.

4. FINAL SERIES

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

(a) Finals Series Competition Fixtures:

Week 1			
Major Semi-Final	1 st Placed Team	v	2 nd Placed Team
Minor Semi-Final	3 rd Placed Team	v	4 th Placed Team
	Loser Eliminated		
Week 2			
Preliminary Final	Loser Major SF	v	Winner Minor SF
	Loser Eliminated		
Bye	Winner MSF1	v	Bye
Week 3			
Grand Final	Winner Major SF	v	Winner PF

(b) Week 1 Competition Fixtures will be played at a multi pitch venue to be determined by NNSWF.

(c) Preliminary Final host finals host venue is determined solely on the basis of first named 1st Grade teams.

(d) Reserve Grade, 17 Years and 14 Years Semi-finals will take place at the same venue as their equivalent 1st Grade Competition Fixtures.

(e) The first named team in all Finals Series Competition Fixtures will be the designated home team.

(f) The highest placed team on the Officials Points Table reserves the right to nominate their preferred playing day.

(g) If the winning teams for the Reserve Grade, 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 Reserve Grade, 17 Years & 14 Years Competition Fixtures.

4.2. Grand Final

(a) If winners for the 1st Grade Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1 (a), Weeks 1-2 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.
- (b) If winners for the Reserve Grade, 17 Years and 14 Years Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1 (a), Weeks 1-2 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, 17 Years and 14 Years Competition Fixtures for these Matches.
- (c) For all Grand Final Matches outlined in 4.1 (a) Week 3, 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 17 Years and 14 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.
- (d) NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all WPL Grand Finals at its sole discretion.

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 she 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 her games in a single team will be eligible to play finals for the team in which she has played the majority of her 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.



5. ADMISSION CHARGES

5.1. No admission may be charged Competition Fixtures.

6. CLUB PASSES

6.1. Each club will be provided the following passes:

(a)	VIP	6
(b)	Committee	18

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

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 on their Reserve Roster.

7.3. 2020 Youth Grades: 17 Years and 14 Years

(a) Players must be turning 14, 15, 16 or 17 years of age in 2020 to be eligible for the 17 years competition.

(i) Players who are 13 may seek approval from NNSWF Technical Staff in order to be considered eligible to participate in the 17 Years.

(b) Players must be turning 13 or 14 years of age in 2020 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) 68 across all grades.

8.2. Youth Players Playing Down:

(a) Clubs may nominate 3 Players exclusive of a goalkeeper, upon submission of their Roster from their 17 Years squad, to be available to play down into 14 Years Matches in the event of Player injury or unavailability which leaves the Team 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;

(b) Players will be approved at the sole discretion of NNSWF.



- (c) Clubs must seek permission from NNSWF before playing Players down.
- (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 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 match day 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 the 14 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. 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	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.)
17 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)
14 Years	2 x 35-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)

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



10. MATCH BALLS

10.1. Approved Match balls must be used in all Competition Fixtures.

10.2. Umbro is the approved Match ball for season 2020.

10.3. The following Match ball sizes must be used:

- (a) 14 Years to 1st Grade – Size 5

11. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

11.1. 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.

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 in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with Regulation 37 of 2020 Premier Competition Regulations.

12. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

12.1. 1st Grade

- (a) Each competing Team may name 5 substitute Players on the Official Team Sheet and at its discretion use 5 substitutes during a Match, 1 of whom may be the Goalkeeper;

- (b) To reduce disruption to the Match, each Team will have a maximum of 3 opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as 1 of the 3 opportunities for each team.

12.2. Reserve Grade

- (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.

12.3. Interchange

- (a) A team is permitted to name a maximum of 5 interchange Players on the Official 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 break;
- (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 2 interchange periods outline in Rule 12.4 (b).

12.4. 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) 1st Grade to be played Wednesday at 8:00pm;
 - (ii) Reserve Grade to be played Wednesday at 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.

13.2. Youth Fixtures

- (a) Postponed Youth fixtures will not be rescheduled with the exception of circumstances as stipulated in Competition Regulation 29.6:
 - (i) These fixtures will be deemed a nil all (0-0) draw.
 - (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 Competition Fixture may have a bearing on a Finals Series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule Competition Fixture.

13.3. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled Competition Fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the home club to determine new Competition Fixture dates.

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

14. PRIZE MONEY

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

1st Grade Premiers	\$1500.00
1st Grade Grand Final Winners	\$1000.00
1st Grade Grand Finalists	\$500.00



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 2 Newcastle Herald feathers at a prominent position as spectators enter the venue.

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



APPENDIX A – AWARDS

The following awards shall be presented to eligible recipients.

Award	Criteria / System	Method
Player of the Year *	Ongoing 3-2-1 Vote System	Voted by Match Officials of each Premiership fixture.
Players Player Award *	1 off singular Vote System	Following the completion of the Premiership each Player on the respective 1 st Grade Roster will vote for the player they believe is the best in the league.
Media Award *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	Following the completion of the Premiership selected media who have actively covered the league will vote for the best player in the league.
Goalkeeper of the Year *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	1 st Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.
Young Player of the Year *	Highest eligible vote getter	Highest vote getter in the Player of the Year tally who is 21 or younger. In the event this player has won the Player of the Year the next highest vote getter within the criteria would receive the award.
Coach of the Year *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	1 st Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.
Fair Play Award	Scaled Disciplinary Infringement System	Awarded to the Club with the best disciplinary record throughout the Premiership season considering yellow / red card infringements & Code of Conduct offences across all Competition Grades.
Golden Boot *	-	Highest goal scorer during the Premiership season.
Player of the Grand Final *	-	Technical panel assembled to determine the best player of the Grand Final.
Club of the Year	NNSWF Reporting System	Based on Club reporting system data.

*1st Grade only.