



**2021**

# **Women's Premier League Competition Rules**



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## SCOPE & DEFINITONS

- 1.1. The Women's Premier League 2021 Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2021 Premier Competition Regulations.
- 1.2. All definitions as outlined in the Northern NSW Football 2021 Premier Competition Regulations will apply in this document.

## 2. FEES

### 2.1. Participation Fee

(a) The total Participation Fee is approximately \$22815.36, subject to Rule 2.1 (c).

(b) This Fee includes the following:

|       |   |           |
|-------|---|-----------|
| (i)   | Competition Fee                                     | \$4620.00 |
| (ii)  | Contribution to Match Official Appointments Officer | \$440.00  |
| (iii) | Women's State Cup Entry Fee                         | \$300.00  |
| (iv)  | Disciplinary Levy                                   | \$550.00  |
| (v)   | Match Officials Fee                                 | \$6300.00 |
| (vi)  | Senior Player Registration Fees                     | \$5262.96 |
| (vii) | Junior Player Registration Fees                     | \$5342.40 |

(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 4<sup>th</sup> instalment noted in 2.1 (d) (iv).

(d) The Participation Fee will be paid over four instalments:

|       |              |           |                                 |
|-------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| (i)   | Instalment 1 | \$5703.84 | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March   |
| (ii)  | Instalment 2 | \$5703.84 | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April |
| (iii) | Instalment 3 | \$5703.84 | Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> May   |
| (iv)  | Instalment 4 | \$5703.84 | Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> 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) 1<sup>st</sup> Grade;
- (ii) Reserve Grade.

(b) Youth Competition:

- (i) 17 Years;
- (ii) 15 Years;
- (iii) 13 Years.

3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 8 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 21 rounds.

3.3. The Youth Competition is comprised of 8 Clubs will be played on a home and away basis over 21 rounds.



3.4. Points will be awarded in accordance with the 2021 Premier Competition Regulations.

#### 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 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team | v | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team |
| Minor Semi-Final  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team | v | 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teams.

(d) Reserve Grade, 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years Semi-finals will take place at the same venue as their equivalent 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 15 Years and 13 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, 15 Years and 13 Years Competition Fixtures.

#### 4.2. Grand Final

(a) If winners for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 15 Years and 13 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, 15 Years and 13 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 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Reserve Grade, extra time periods will be 2 equal periods of 15 minutes;
  - (ii) For 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 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. Senior Finals Eligibility

- (a) The grade a Player has played the highest percentage of their Matches in is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final's Series.
  - (i) A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with 4.2 (a) and grades above.
  - (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.
  - (iii) Should a player have played an equal percentage of their Matches in all grades they participated in, they will be considered eligible to participate in those grades.
  
- (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) Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of Goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.



#### 4.4. Youth Finals Eligibility

- (a)** The grade a Player has played the highest percentage of their Matches in is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final's Series.
- (i)** A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with 4.2 (a) and grades above.
  - (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.
  - (iii)** Should a player have played an equal percentage of their Matches in all grades they participated in, they will be considered eligible to participate in those grades.

#### 5. ADMISSION CHARGES

5.1. No admission may be charged Competition Fixtures.

5.2. NNSWF reserves the right to determine admission fees for Grand Final Competition Fixtures.

#### 6. CLUB PASSES

6.1. Each club will be provided the following passes:

|            |           |    |
|------------|-----------|----|
| <b>(a)</b> | VIP       | 6  |
| <b>(b)</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. 2021 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 2001 or later on their Reserve Roster:
  - (i)** Players required in Rule 7.2 (b) cannot be listed on the Club's 17 Years Roster.

7.3. A Player registered in the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Roster is not permitted to participate in a Youth Grade competition.

7.4. 2021 Youth Grades: 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years

- (a)** Players must be born 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 are eligible to participation in the 17 years competition.
  - (i)** Players born in 2008 may seek approval from NNSWF Technical Staff in order to be considered eligible to participate in the 17 Years.



- (b)** Players must be born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 in 2021 to be eligible for the 13 years competition.
- (c)** Players born 2006 and before, are permitted to play into any higher age group, including senior grades an unlimited number of times (subject to Final Series qualification).
- (d)** Youth Players are not permitted to play down into an age group lower than their age with the exception of 8.2 (d) (i):
  - (i)** 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)** Should a Club not have an underpinning JDL Team, they may seek approval for the usage of 15 Years Players in the event of injury or unavailability. In the event of an injury or unavailability this request is to be supported by evidence from the Club.

## 8. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

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

- (a)** 85 across all grades.

**8.2.** Biological Maturation

**(a)** Clubs may seek dispensation (under Biological Maturation guidelines) for a maximum of 1 Player in each of the 13 Years and 15 Years. Clubs seeking dispensation must apply to NNSWF on the prescribed request form:

- (i)** <https://northernnswfootball.com.au/biological-maturation/>

**(b)** All Players applying for Biological Maturation exemption must attend a physical session with NNSWF Player Development staff before being approved.

**(c)** Biological Maturation approvals are at the sole discretion of the NNSWF and are not appealable.

**8.3.** 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                   |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b> | 2 x 45-minute halves | 15 minutes (max)                     |
| <b>Reserve Grade</b>        | 2 x 45-minute halves | 5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.) |
| <b>17 Years</b>             | 2 x 40-minute halves | 5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.) |
| <b>15 Years</b>             | 2 x 35-minute halves | 5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.) |
| <b>13 Years</b>             | 2 x 35-minute halves | 5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.) |

9.2. Additional time for injuries and stoppages in 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Mitre is the approved Match ball for season 2021.

10.3. The following Match ball sizes must be used:

- (a) 15 Years to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Size 5
- (b) 13 Years – Size 4

## 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 2021 Premier Competition Regulations.

## 12. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

12.1. Substitution 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Reserve Grade

- (a) Each competing Team may name a maximum of 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.
  - (i) For Matches where Extra Time is required (Rule 4.1) each Team will have 1 additional opportunity to make a substitution.





## 12.2. 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 make unlimited interchanges during each half and the half-time interval:

## 12.3. The interchange rule will apply for the following competitions:

- (a) 17 Years.
- (b) 15 Years.
- (c) 13 Years.

## 13. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

### 13.1. All Competitions

- (a) All 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) 1<sup>st</sup> Grade to be played Wednesday at 8:00pm;
  - (ii) Reserve Grade to be played Wednesday at 6:00pm;
  - (iii) 17 Years to be played Thursday 7:30pm;
  - (iv) 15 Years to be played Tuesday 6:00pm.
  - (v) 13 Years to be played Thursday 6:00pm

13.1.b.v.1. NNSWF will work with applicable Clubs to schedule 13 Years matches appropriately dependent upon the circumstances.

- (c) Postponed fixtures involving Mid Coast FC 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 Competition Fixture may have a bearing on a Finals Series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule Competition Fixture.

13.2. 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.

13.3. 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:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Premiers            | \$1 500.00                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Second Place        | \$500.00                     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Final Winners | \$1 000.00                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Finalists     | \$500.00                     |
| Club of the Year                          | \$500.00 First Touch Voucher |

## 15. MEDIA & MARKETING

15.1. Clubs will be required to actively operate Social Media accounts that are up to date, relevant and provide information to their members in accordance with NNSWF's Social Media Policy.

15.2. Clubs may be required to erect WPL sponsorship banners within their venue. NNSWF will advise Clubs of requirements prior to the commencement of the Competition Season.

15.3. Clubs who fail to adhere to this rule will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the 2021 Premier Competitions Regulations.



## APPENDIX A – AWARDS

The following awards shall be presented to eligible recipients.

| Award                              | Criteria / System                       | Method  |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Player of the Year *</b>        | Ongoing 3-2-1 Vote System               | Voted by Match Officials of each Premiership fixture.   |
| <b>Players Player Award *</b>      | 1 off singular Vote System              | Following the completion of the Premiership each Player on the respective 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Roster will vote for the player they believe is the best in the league.                                     |
| <b>Media Award *</b>               | 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.  |
| <b>Goalkeeper of the Year *</b>    | 1 off 3-2-1 Vote System                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.  |
| <b>Young Player of the Year *</b>  | 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. |
| <b>Coach of the Year *</b>         | 1 off 3-2-1 Vote System                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.  |
| <b>Fair Play Award</b>             | 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.               |
| <b>Golden Boot *</b>               | -                                       | Highest goal scorer during the Premiership season.  |
| <b>Player of the Grand Final *</b> | -                                       | Technical panel assembled to determine the best player of the Grand Final.  |
| <b>Club of the Year</b>            | NNSWF Reporting System                  | Based on Club reporting system data.  |

\*1<sup>st</sup> Grade only.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A Player or Team Official is ineligible to win any of the aforementioned awards if the Player / Team Official is:

- (A) suspended as a result of receiving a Direct Red Card in Match;
- (B) suspended as a result of a determination of a body under the Disciplinary Regulations;
- (C) convicted of an anti-doping offence;
- (D) found guilty of serious misconduct as determined by FA; and/or
- (E) found guilty of breaching an FA Statute and NNSWF determines that as a result of such breach the Player is ineligible to win any of the aforementioned awards.

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